









Woman  
Mormon  
retribution  
court told

## HOME NEWS

## Editor 'must have final say in race reporting'

The race, nationality or religion of persons concerned in a news report is a matter for the editor's discretion, the Press Council says in an adjudication issued yesterday. Editors who exercise their discretion correctly will be supported by the council; those who do not will be criticized, it says.

The council rejected a complaint against the *Evening Gazette* that it had not indicated the ethnic origin of the defendant. The editor exercised his discretion correctly, the council said. The defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter by killing another in a fight. There was no indication of his ethnic origin.

Mr E. Pendrous complained that it was against the public interest to withhold such information.

Mr C. H. Munday, the editor, said he did not consider that the accuracy of the report had been affected by not giving the defendant's ethnic origin. He did not regard it as a main function of a newspaper to attempt to identify people by colour.

Mr Allan Prosser, the deputy editor, said that the man was black was not relevant.

The Press Council in its adjudication said that references to race in news reports merely to create ill will or stir up disaffection would always be condemned. But in this case, which was never suggested to have been a racial crime, the editor, as was his right, chose not to specify the ethnic origin. The council considered that he exercised his discretion correctly.

The complainant had cited a report of a racial clash at Southall the previous year when an Asian was stabbed to death in a fight with white youths and when the newspaper referred to ethnic origins.

The Press Council accepted that different standards should be applied in cases because there were demonstrations and a visit by the Home Secretary. It was a matter for the editor's discretion to decide whether there was a legitimate public interest in knowing the race, nationality or religion of the persons concerned.

## Managers 13.2pc rise 'does not break pay policy'

By Our Labour Staff

The Department of Employment was at pains yesterday to make it clear that a 13.2 per cent pay increase for 350 senior managers in the British Steel Corporation is not a breach of pay policy.

The managers, earning upwards of £9,000 per year, have been awarded the increase, backdated to January 1 this year, to compensate them for the loss of payments under a cost-of-living-linked deal made before prices came into effect in August, 1975.

The settlement appeared to invite comparison with the claim by air traffic controllers that they should have the benefit of a pay reorganization scheme caught up in pay policy.

But in a statement the department said that any suggestion that the effort was based on a misunderstanding of pay policy. The circumstances in each case were significantly different.

The deal fell within the strict limits of the allowable under the one, because firm and upward commitments had been entered into before July 13, 1975.

## Tip investigation

More than a hundred residents at Ravenfield, near otherham, will be moved out next week while investigations continue into a tip that is now to contain acid and waste.

## Idea to help 'disenchanted Packer players' disclosed

By John Hennessy

Mr Richard Stone, secretary of Oxford University Cricket Club, had suggested last July to Donald Carr, secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), that a fund should be set up to enable disenchanted players to withdraw from the Packer series, it was disclosed in the High Court yesterday, during the Packer cricket hearing.

Mr Stone said that one of the Australian team in Oxford for a match against the Combined Universities had told him that he regretted what he had done and would "dearly love" to leave.

The admissibility of the letter evidence had originally been contested by the plaintiffs, Mr Packer and three of his advisers, on the ground of hearsay. But when Mr Andrew Morley QC, referred to Mr Carr's reply to the letter during cross-examination of Mr Douglas, sole chairman of the TCCB, a defence asked for the letter to be admitted and Mr Justice agreed. The letter reads, in part:

"The Australians came to Oxford recently I had an interest in talking with one of them who I joined up with Packer. His reply was that one day in January (February) he was called to Packer's office and had such a 'drive after' made to him in view of his own financial situation he could hardly refuse. I was promised a cheque before I left the room for £30,000 net £18,000 if he signed the

## Calls for Leyland head's removal for 'racist and anti-union' speech

By Ian Bradley

Calls for the dismissal of Sir Richard Dobson from the chairmanship of British Leyland have followed the publication yesterday of a speech to businessmen in which he referred to "bribing wags" and criticized trade unions.

Extracts from the speech, which Sir Richard made to a dinner of the Twenty Club on September 29, were published yesterday in *Socialist Challenge*, the left-wing newspaper edited by Mr Tariq Ali and principally supported by the International Marxist Group. The newspaper obtained a tape recording of the speech a week ago from a dinner guest.

In the speech Sir Richard attacked what he describes as "the rising tide of hypocrisy" in Britain, particularly on the subjects of race and the unions. He commented, "All I can say is, trade unions are bastards, and they can say 'managements are bastards'... but I cannot say anything like that."

Mr Tom Litterick, Labour MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, has asked Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, to dismiss Sir Richard. Mr Litterick has also written to the tape recording of Sir Richard's speech in the offices of *Socialist Challenge* this week.

He said yesterday, "Sir Richard's attitude to trade unions is clearly unimproved and counter-productive. I do not think he is a proper person to hold a high office in a public company." Mr Litterick has also put down a Commons question to the Prime Minister about the speech.

A petition calling for Sir Richard's immediate removal from office has gathered 200 signatures from shop stewards in British Leyland's Rotherham plant at Solihull. It describes



Mr Tariq Ali: Complaint to race commission.

his speech as racist and anti-union and calls for an inquiry to discuss the facts about bribery and the extent of racist and anti-union views in the Leyland management.

Mr Raghib Ahsan, a Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward at the plant and recently Socialist Unity candidate for Birmingham, Ladywood, said he hoped a call for Sir Richard's dismissal would be made at the emergency British Leyland shop stewards' meeting, called today to discuss the company's proposal for national wage bargaining.

Mr Tariq Ali has made a formal complaint about Sir Richard's speech to the Commission for Racial Equality. In a letter sent yesterday to Mr David Lane, the commission's chairman, Mr Ali asked for a

He said yesterday that although the International Marxist Group makes tape recordings of speeches by prominent businessmen, it had no idea that Sir Richard's speech

to the Twenty Club was being recorded.

He refused to disclose who had made the recording and passed it to *Socialist Challenge*. He did, however, say that it was by a guest at the dinner, not a member of the staff of the Dorchester hotel, where the dinner was held.

He added that the person concerned was a reader of *Socialist Challenge*.

The Twenty Club is a group of retail businessmen who meet regularly on a private basis. Its president is Mr John Fenwick of Fenwick's, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the secretary is Mr Anthony Pedlar of Broadbent's, Southampton. The chairman for the evening when Sir Richard addressed the club was Mr Richard Burgess, of British Home Stores. None of them was available for comment yesterday.

Sir Richard Dobson was on his way to the United States yesterday. British Leyland declined to comment.

## Journalists vote for £2,000 rise

Journalists at *The Daily Telegraph* voted yesterday to seek rises of £2,000 a year from August 1. A smaller amount would be accepted if there was a commitment to make an award next August 2 that would restore living standards to the level of 1972.

The management offered a £4 increase in line with phase two, backdated to July 1, plus £175 a year productivity payment. By a convincing majority the National Union of Journalists decided to cooperate with the Institute of Journalists, which wants the restoration of living standards to the 1972 level. That would mean the average journalist's salary would have to rise by 44.3 per cent.

## Front says serving policeman is recruit

From Our Correspondent Milton Keynes

The National Front said yesterday that a serving policeman has joined its ranks. He is said to be a member of the Thames Valley police stationed in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Ronald Rickford, spokesman for the National Front's North Buckinghamshire branch said: "For obvious reasons we have no intention of disclosing his identity."

Since the Thames Valley force heard of the matter on Wednesday senior officers have been investigating it. Chief Inspector John Burton, official spokesman for the force, said: "Membership of a political party by a police officer is not a disciplinary offence. We are not aware of any officer being a member of this organization."

The Police Federation said it viewed the report with great concern. Mr William Benyon, Conservative MP for Buckingham, said that if the report was true, the officer should resign. Archbishop of York, Dr Blanch, told Girl Guides at York yesterday that there was a serious danger of young people's joining the National Front (our York Correspondent writes). He predicted that the 1980s would see a reaction against permissiveness.

Even among young people there was a curious yearning "for strong discipline and clear objectives. Pray God we may not slip over from permissiveness straight into the kind of dogmatism which prevents young people from thinking at all". Dr Blanch said, adding, "the number of young people in the National Front is a serious danger to society".

## Synod to discuss pay and sexual ethics

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Sexual ethics, clergy pay, and the form of the Lord's Prayer are three of the main items to be considered by the General Synod of the Church of England at its meeting next month. A resolution critical of the recent Declaration on Sexual Ethics issued by the Roman Catholic Church's Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has won first place for debating time set aside for private members' motions in competition with 15 other motions.

On its way to the top of the agenda it was running neck and neck until recently with a resolution welcoming the Vatican declaration, but in the past few months the number of members asking for it to be debated has moved ahead of the pro-Vatican resolution, which it has beaten at the final count by 126 votes to 101. It is expected that the less popular resolution will come forward as an amendment.

The resolution, to be moved by Canon D. A. Rhymes, of Southwark, refers to the "many within all churches who have disagreed with the recent Vatican Declaration on Sexual Ethics". It asks the synod to state that it "feels that the time has come for a new look at the whole theology of Christian sexuality in the light of present theological and psychiatric understanding". The synod will be asked to set up a commission to produce a statement for debate later.

The resolution before the synod welcoming the Vatican declaration is proposed by Canon D. A. J. Stevens, of Peterborough, and describes it as a "necessary and compassionate restatement of traditional Christian teaching in these matters". The declaration is particularly timely in view of the Archbishop of Canterbury's hope for a "multiplication of strong, happy and disciplined Christian homes", it adds.

A report to the synod on clerical stipends shows the impact of inflation on the clergy, who have lost ground in every year but one since 1973.

The Church Commissioners, as the central stipends authority, will tell the synod that despite the incomes policy they have been able at last to eliminate the previously big fraction of the total who have been below the minimum recommended scale.

Until last year about a third of the clergy were below the minimum for each year; the figure dropped to 19 per cent this summer. The commissioners have decided to authorize payments, backdated to April, that will leave only special cases below the minimum level of £2,530 a year.

The commissioners have not yet decided on the new minima for the year starting next April, although they have told diocesan finance authorities to prepare themselves for increases within the present official pay guidelines. The new range is expected to be from £2,900 to £3,250, and that would mean average increases of about one per cent.

The synod will be asked to settle a difficulty that has emerged in preparing a new prayer book. The new form of the Lord's Prayer published as part of the Series III liturgy has not displaced the traditional form of the prayer in popular usage, and the synod will be asked whether both forms should be included in the prayer book or only the new form.

## Fox moves a hunt

The Fitzwilliam Hunt called off its meet at Ashton, near Oundle, Northamptonshire, yesterday after a pet fox had escaped from a garden near by. The hunt met 10 miles away instead.

## 'Elitists and sycophants' in Church of England

The Church of England is criticized today by the Bishop of Namibia in exile, the Right Rev Colin Winter, as "one of the largest supporters of elitist education, the monarchy and the sycophants that go with it in a country whose ancient educational foundations are still one of the strongest upholders and causes of our class-divided society".

The remark appeared in a review in *Labour Weekly* of Lord Soper's book *Christian Politics*.

Bishop Winter said: "I lived for 13 years under the cruel degradation of an apartheid regime in South Africa that claimed its politics were 'Christian'. Ian Smith in Rhodesia claims he is doing the same."

"In Europe those 'Christian' democratic parties with whom I have come into contact are usually composed of the most reactionary forces in society, opposed to social justice, silent on the major issues of race, the escalation of arms, and the depraving effects of such issues as world hunger."

"Can there be such a thing as Christian politics, or Christian economics, any more than there can be Christian geometry? I think not."

"Who could doubt that when the National Front was rapidly becoming respectable in and around our decaying cities, and winning support from some Labour voters, we needed the courageous outspokenness of an Old Testament prophet demanding justice, righteousness and compassion from our leaders in both national and international affairs."

"The young in our schools and universities certainly yearn for political courage and vision."

# CAN THE SPRINGBOKS BE ALL BLACKS?

The truth is that big changes are taking place in South African sport.

For those who still think 'Springbok' is a lily-white word, we've got some hard facts.

We suggest you read them.

Because if you're honestly concerned about blacks and whites playing sport together, these facts will put things into perspective.

Q: How are selections made for the Springbok team?

A: Purely on the basis of merit from trials that include all races.

Q: Why then are there no black players on the Springbok team?

A: Well until fairly recently, comparatively few blacks in South Africa played the game and their exposure to top-class rugby was limited as a result of this.

Q: Were they involved in other sports?

A: Yes. Soccer has always been their favourite sport and because of the high standard they have achieved, there are no fewer than six black players on the Springbok soccer team.

Q: How do you see the future of South African sport?

A: It's not going to be too long before blacks are selected on merit, to play on all Springbok teams. To encourage this, many of our top rugby players are doing everything they can to help raise the standard of black players.

Finally, we'd like to reiterate that all the above are verifiable FACTS.

About the way things are TODAY. And we'd like to be judged on today's facts.

Not on yesterday's emotions.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP? WHAT ARE THE VIEWS OF YOUR SPORTS ADMINISTRATORS?

Published by The Committee for Fairness in Sport.  
Director: G. P. Wolmarans, P.O. Box 23937, JOUBERT PARK, 2044, South Africa.



HOME NEWS

## Adopted people show little curiosity about real parents

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Only one adopted person in every 100 has exercised the new legal right to information about the natural parents, the first survey into the operation of the law has found. Many of those who did come forward, however, told councillors that their adoptive parents had mis-handled the way they explained their origins to the children.

Two girls adopted into the same family suffered a "conspiracy of silence" according to Mr Alfred Leeding, who conducted the survey for the Association of British Adoption and Fostering Agencies. The girls were both told individually that the other sister was adopted, but the parents never discussed it with the two together.

"While it is easy to criticize these and other adopters who kept from their children all knowledge of their origins, it must be remembered that many were doing their best according to their lights," Mr Leeding writes in *Adoption and Fostering*, the association's journal.

About a quarter of our adoptees described their relationships with adoptive parents as excellent, while another half considered them satisfactory, and both these categories include some adopters who had failed badly in the matter of "telling".

The survey was designed to discover how the new right of

access to birth records for adoptees over the age of 18 was being used. There was much opposition to the new law, embodied in the Children Act, 1975, because it was feared that thousands of adoptees would want to trace their natural parents and cause much unhappiness.

But the survey, which covered 13 local authorities with a total population of 5,300,000, found that only 279 people had applied for counselling in the four months to March 1977. Only a fifth of them wanted to seek out a parent and 11 succeeded in doing so, but more than half simply wanted information about their early life.

Seven per cent wanted to trace a parent for medical reasons. By the end of July, only 5,000 out of an estimated 500,000 eligible had made an inquiry. Most of the adoptees who met their parents for the first time, benefited from it, Mr Leeding writes. One woman who learnt that an "aunt" was her real mother, as she had always suspected, said: "This is the happiest day of my life."

### Murder charge remand

Christopher Andrew Davies, aged 28, of Parkside, Grays, Essex, was remanded in custody by Southend magistrates yesterday, charged with murdering Mrs Vanessa Raven, aged 23, at Leigh-on-Sea on October 14.

## Picture was sold to raise money for taxes

By Our Arts Reporter

Mr Maxwell Joseph's decision to sell Gainsborough's painting of Sir Benjamin Truman, after receiving an offer he found it difficult to refuse, was arrived at because he had to sell certain assets to pay tax bills.

That was stated by a spokesman for Mr Joseph, chairman of Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd. "He was very sad about its leaving," he said, "because he would not have bought it had he not wished to preserve it where it was."

The picture hung in the board room of Truman, the brewers, founded by Sir Benjamin, until it was sold to Mr Joseph. Since the announcement that the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art has placed six months' suspension on the export licence Sir Benjamin's portrait is once again hanging in the board room pending an offer by a national collection in Britain to buy it. It had been sold to the Yale Centre for British Art, in Connecticut, for £450,000.

Grand Metropolitan took over Truman in 1971. The next year it had a searching look at all assets that were not earning their keep. A decision was taken to sell the portrait. Mr Joseph decided to buy it and return it to the company on loan.

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## Mr Prentice says his views changed in 1970

By Mark Jackson of The Times Educational Supplement

Mr Reg Prentice, the Labour MP who has turned Tory, says today that he was close to his present beliefs when he joined the second Wilson government three years ago.

As Secretary of State for Education and Science in 1974-1975, Mr Prentice became known as "the hammer of the grammars" when he initiated with seeming single-mindedness some of Labour's biggest strides towards an egalitarian school system. He announced the ending of direct grants to grammar schools, and Mrs Thatcher accused him of bullying local authorities to make them go comprehensive. At the same time he scolded the party's extreme left for dilatory.

In *The Times Educational Supplement* today Mr Prentice says that the "watershed" in his political thinking was four years earlier. "I could remain happily in the party and a fairly loyal member until about 1970," he says. His views changed then as a reaction to what he saw as a resurgence of "old-fashioned socialist thinking" on such issues as nationalization.

There was almost no difference, he says, in the way that he and his predecessor, Mrs Thatcher, behaved as education ministers, although there had been some divergence in emphasis. Mr Prentice says he deliberately went slow over the phasing out of the direct grant because he felt "very undecided" over the wisdom of

the policy although, he adds, his doubts were never sufficient for him to consider resignation.

He says: "I'm not claiming this to make my peace with the direct-grant people, but it is true that I took a long time over it; we didn't start phasing out until after I had left the department. We could have started certainly a year earlier, even two years earlier, if we had got a shift on I did it in the most gradual way possible... and an incoming Conservative Government determined to restore the direct grant could do so."

Mr Prentice points out that although the Government was committed to compelling reluctant councils to go ahead with comprehensive schemes he abstained from taking steps to secure the necessary powers from Parliament: the 1976 Education Act, which dealt with the matter, was not his, although he had voted for it.

The TES reports that members of Mr Prentice's former team at the Department of Education and Science, including Mr Armstrong, his parliamentary under-secretary, are still convinced that he was fully committed in private to the policies he was advocating publicly, and do not want to see him destroying his reputation as an outstanding Labour education minister.

Mr Prentice's former colleagues dismiss as inexcusable a claim he makes in the TES interview that he succeeded in having expunged from the final draft of Labour's October 1974 election manifesto a reference to the public schools.

## Old paintings found in roof vault of public house

## Welsh Office and brewery take steps to preserve inscriptions

From John Chatteris  
Beaumaris, Anglesey

The Welsh Office and Robinson's, the Stockport brewery, which owns many houses in North Wales, have begun negotiations on financing the preservation of early-seventeenth-century paintings and inscriptions found on wooden beams in the roof vault of the George and Dragon public house at Beaumaris.

The paintings and inscriptions, which the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales dates to about 1610, were found when work began on replacement of the leaking roof at the inn. It is known to have ancient origins, although the building as it stands shows few of them.

Some of the paintings were found behind a layer of plaster in a spare bedroom, others in the seldom visited roof vault. They include coloured pictures of roses, bleeding heart symbols, "devil's faces", and Latin inscriptions.

Mr Anthony Parkinson, an investigator from the royal commission, told me: "I think I can safely say they are unique within the context of ancient buildings throughout Wales."

"We have had examples of paintings on beams from this period and of inscriptions, but never the two together. These seem to indicate that the pub was originally the home of a well-to-do merchant, someone

who nowadays would certainly be in the A/B readership class of a newspaper like *The Times*. The upper room was probably his great hall, where he and his family dined and entertained."

The inscriptions include fairly familiar phrases, such as *Nosce te ipsum* ("know thyself"), and *Deus providebit* ("God will provide"). Mr Parkinson describes them as "straight lifts from *Socrates* via *Juvenius*", frequently found in family mottoes.

Mr Parkinson thinks there may be a link between the location of the house and the later commercially exploited copper deposits on Parys Mountain, about 20 miles away.

"The idea that this obviously comfortable merchant was one of the first copper merchants is a tempting one, but that will require further investigation because we think the mining of copper in Anglesey began at a much later period," he said.

There is also evidence that these particular treasures may have been "missed" only 45 years ago. The figures "1911" have been found inscribed on one of the beams near a painting, and a reference to painting in the George and Dragon roof has been found in the commission's files dated 1929, with a question mark after it. Mr Parkinson said:

"One might deduce from this

that an electrician, installing the first wiring, noticed the paintings on the beams and made his mark; and that perhaps some 18 years later he mentioned this to someone from the commission possibly even while they were both having a drink in the bar. Whatever happened, the clue was obviously never followed up."

The commission hopes that finance will be found jointly by the Welsh Office and the brewery to preserve the paintings and inscriptions so that they can be viewed by the public, antiquarians, and other scholars.

A representative of the brewery said: "Much expense and some complicated engineering would be involved in retaining the roof timbers in position while re-roofing was carried out, but it was hoped that financial help would be forthcoming from the Welsh Office."

The discovery places the little town of Beaumaris (which stands on the old coach and ferry route across the Lavan Sands, the only way to Anglesey before Telford's bridge was built) even more firmly on the historical map.

The Old Bull's Head down the road from the George and Dragon, which was commandeered by Thomas Myrton, the parliamentary general, in 1645 and possesses the largest single-hinged door in the British Isles, has always attracted them.

## Guidelines needed for jobless youth

By Our Education Correspondent

Clear guidelines on the levels of attainment to be reached by unemployed young people taking part in the new youth opportunities scheme must be laid down by the Government, the National Union of Students says in a six-page submission to the Manpower Services Commission published today.

It should not be left to the individual employers to ensure

that their trainees receive a balanced education, the union says. The purpose of the new programme is not job-creation but to equip individuals with the skills necessary to secure worthwhile long-term employment, it emphasizes.

The union suggests that seven broad educational objectives should be laid down for courses in the programme, including the development of an all-round awareness of work and

its relationship to society; of basic literacy, numeracy and oral skills; of personal self-confidence; and of an all-round knowledge of legal rights, such as those relating to unemployment benefits and the Rent Acts.

The union criticizes the commission's proposals for not making clear what the educational prospects of students would be after their six-month training course had ended.

## Three Arabs killed by 'person unknown'

A verdict of murder by a person unknown was returned at an inquest yesterday on a former Prime Minister of North Yemen, his wife and a diplomat who were shot dead in their car outside the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, in April.

Dr Gavin Thurston, the Westminster Coroner, said the former Prime Minister, Abdullah al-Hajri, aged 59, died from a

bullet in the brain. His wife, Fatimah, aged 40, was killed by a bullet in the chest and the diplomat, Mr Abdullah Ali al-Hammami, aged 42, a first secretary at the embassy in London, by a bullet in the heart.

Commander James Nevill, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said several hundred people had been interviewed about the killings. "The weapon was never

found," he said. "Tests show that seven shots were fired into the car. Three warrants for the individual murders have been issued against one person. I have every reason to believe that this person is out of the country."

Commander Nevill said he thought the wanted man might be in a country with which Britain had no extradition treaty, but he had no firm evidence on that.

## Unqualified planners under attack

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

To require an experienced architect to submit his design to a local authority for approval was like asking a QC to submit his legal opinions to the local solicitor's clerk, the annual conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects was told by Mr Michael Manser yesterday. Alternatively, he said, it was like telling Mr David Hockney and Mr Graham Sutherland, OM, to submit to a hanging committee of house painters.

Mr Manser, who said he was speaking as a partner in a small private planning firm, complained that since 1947 planning had achieved little at enormous cost. The idea of having planning applications made to skilled planners and architects, whose decisions would be endorsed by elected representatives, had failed at the grass root.

Something like 27,000 people were employed in local government planning departments, of whom only about 2,400 were qualified planners. The 21,000 architects practising in Britain were thus outnumbered by a largely unqualified and therefore inadequate aesthetic filter.

"If Hampton Court, St Paul's, Wells Cathedral or Carlton House Terrace were to be built now they would without doubt be rejected as out of keeping with their surroundings," he said.

Cuckooism: The Government's programme for regenerating inner cities would prove to be not so much a phoenix as a cuckoo, devouring all available resources, Professor Graham Ashworth, of Salford University, told the annual conference of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, at Harrogate yesterday.

He said there was confusion between the central business districts and inner residential areas, which housed a high proportion of low-paid and unskilled workers. It was presumed that their prosperity was interconnected, whereas it was unconnected.

Politically unacceptable though it might seem, the best solution would be to designate inner areas for those employed in the central district, namely relatively affluent middle-class office workers and those in service industries, while tradesmen and semi-skilled workers should be encouraged to move to areas closer to their employment.

## Petition seeks compulsory nursery schools

A petition calling for a new law to oblige local education authorities to provide nursery education was launched yesterday by the National Campaign for Nursery Education. The legislation should include provision for the necessary finance, the petition said. "Nursery education is being cut back to an alarming extent in some parts of the country, and a statutory obligation on local education authorities now appears to be the only practical remedy," Miss Frances Batstone of the campaign, said yesterday.

The campaign says that at least a third of authorities have failed to open nursery schools

## Psychiatrists say ECT on TV scares patients

By Our Medical Correspondent

Nine psychiatrists from Stratheden Hospital, Kife, have written to the *British Medical Journal* today to say that television programmes about electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) have caused so much dread and suspicion among the public that patients who need treatment for depression are afraid to seek psychiatric help.

Among examples quoted by Dr J. P. Anderson and his colleagues is the case of a woman in her fifties who had an episode of severe depression successfully treated by ECT in 1964. She remained well until earlier this year, when she became ill again and did not improve with drug treatment.

She tried to conceal the severity of her depression from her husband because he had been convinced by a television programme that she was lucky to have survived ECT. Her depression deepened, but the midsummer television programme on ECT provoked further criticism of the treatment from her husband, and she attempted suicide.

The letter said: "Her efforts were not successful, and she has not responded very well to a short course of modified ECT, a

treatment which had at no time caused her direct anxiety and which she herself had desperately wanted."

Television programmes, while asserting their neutrality and objectivity, have attacked psychiatrists as naive, arrogant and cruel, and their treatments as crude, unscientific and sadistic, the letter says.

The distortions of the media have led to psychiatrists coming under great pressure from relatives to withhold what was often life-saving treatment. If other treatments came under similar criticism, drugs such as lithium have serious side-effects, then patients with depression might have to be left for the disease to run its course.

Anyone criticizing ECT, the psychiatrists say, should read the classic account of *Unpleasant Melancholia* written by Sir Aubrey Lewis in 1934, when patients had to stay in hospital for as long as three and a half years.

Few would deny that ECT had been used indiscriminately, but the majority of university of practice in the United Kingdom, from 30 years of experience had confirmed place as the most effective, safe and effective treatment available for severe depression.

## More worker participation in arts urged

By Martin Hockley

Swift action to implement proposals for greater worker participation by actors, musicians and other people employed in the arts was urged in a policy background paper presented by the Labour Party yesterday.

Mrs Renée Short, MP, chairman of the arts study group of the national executive committee, said local authorities should take a lead by seeking organizations from local branches of entertainment unions for representatives to sit on council committees responsible for the arts.

The document urges changes that would require legislation, but Mrs Short said: "Much can be done by local initiative at the present time. I think we can get this going in the present year."

With the help of regional party organizations and the trade unions they hope to hold regional conferences to discuss what could be done. She said there was strong support among workers in the arts for some say in decisions that were being made.

Other proposals are for an arts minister of Cabinet rank, and reform of the Arts Council to provide most of its members from representatives of local authorities, arts associations, unions, managements and arts consumer groups.

Mrs Short added: "It is almost a quarter of a century since the Labour Party debated the arts and I think it is high time this awful situation was changed."

The Arts and the People, Labour Party Towards the Arts (Labour Party, 45p).

## Call for choice in membership of students' unions

By Our Education Correspondent

Students should be free to choose whether they wish to join their local students' union, Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, told the meeting of the Federation of Conservative Students at Chelmsford yesterday.

At present all students in higher education must join and the membership fee is paid directly to the union by the local authority that pays the student's grant. "I am proposing to ask if this compulsory membership is really to the advantage of the students," Mr McCrindle said.

## Claude Lévi-Strauss

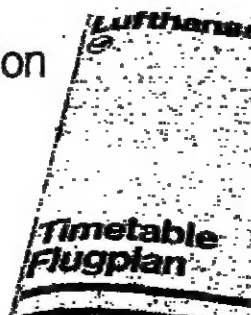
David Dickson talks to Claude Lévi-Strauss, the distinguished French anthropologist, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. David Cante discusses the decline of the New Left, and William Kirkman looks at the prospects for graduates' employment this autumn.

# Who helps the British businessman in Heidelberg?



All our 31 local telephone numbers are in the Yellow Book.

In the Lufthansa Yellow Book you'll find not only the telephone number of our local offices which are all over Germany, but also useful information about hotels and travelling times from airports. Visit or phone our local Lufthansa office. Our friendly staff will book you a hotel. Hire you a car. Give you information about the local sites. Ask your travel agent or Lufthansa for the Yellow Book.



**Lufthansa**  
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## HOME NEWS

# Many engineering companies reaching pay deals in line with government policy

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Engineering employers yesterday reported a "very high degree of success" in reaching settlements within the guidelines of the Government's income policy. They are confident of holding the line on pay provided the same restraint is observed in the public and other private sectors.

During the uncertainty over pay policy in July and August many businesses found their workers refusing to accept a three per cent settlement in line with the counter-inflation rules, but after the TUC had overwhelmingly endorsed the 12-month rule the resistance collapsed.

"There has emerged a gradual acceptance by employees of the inevitability of being required to settle under stage two rather than slipping into a stage three settlement," *EEF News*, the internal journal of the Engineering Employers' Federation, reports. "A growing number of firms which had difficulty in concluding stage two settlements have now been able to conclude a settlement within the 5 per cent limit."

The federation adds that, despite the encouraging trend, there are still a few companies where difficulties remain and negotiations are continuing.

The official union organization is regrettable in a number of cases either unwilling or unable to take firm action to bring their members into line with TUC policy.

The federation says many new claims are in breach of the 12-month rule, as well as demanding rises in excess of the 10 per cent limit on increased earnings. But as many of them date back to August 1, the federation hopes that the unions involved "will not pursue them with as much vigour" now that the TUC has backed the 12-month rule.

More than a hundred settlements at the 10 per cent level have been reported.

The federation also reports increasing pressure for some form of productivity agreement, and gives a warning against "begins" schemes that do not give genuine reductions

in unit costs. Businesses considering that line of collective bargaining are urged to consult the employers' organization.

In concluding its pay survey with confidence in the industry's ability to hold the line if others do the same, the federation says: "Isolated breaches of the Government's guidelines would not completely destroy pay policy, but they would make it increasingly difficult for the engineering industry to reach settlements it can afford."

Looking to the longer term, the federation's management board has accepted the need for a reform of Britain's system of collective bargaining on the lines recently proposed by the CBI.

## Apex call to reform the law on dismissals

By Our Labour Editor

Legal changes to abolish an employer's right to dismiss workers involved in union recognition struggles are being urged on the Government by Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), the union at the centre of the Grunwick dispute.

Apex, having failed to win Grunwick's compliance with the Scarman inquiry report, which recommended reinstatement of the strikers and union recognition, is pursuing its aims through the TUC.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, has had talks with Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment. The TUC wants the Government to look for new ways to implement the recommendations.

But beyond that point the TUC is being asked to take up proposals for a more general reform of the law.

Apex would like to see emergency machinery based on the procedure of a court of inquiry. That body would hear evidence and make recommendations to the parties within two or three weeks. If no solution emerged the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service would have the power to make a judgment on the basis of the recommendation, and an industrial tribunal would have the power to reinstate the workers or compensate them.

Opening old wounds, page 14



Offshore survival: This totally enclosed life-saving system is being used at the new survival training centre for offshore men at Aberdeen. The lifeboat, known as the Whitaker, is American and can carry 50 men strapped in safety harnesses. It is also able to drive through fire. The centre, which cost £250,000, offers one-week courses.

## Fire safety changes in old people's homes urged

From Our Correspondent

Bull. A fire that destroyed a social services home and caused the deaths of 11 elderly men would not have occurred if the ceiling of the boiler room had had a "recognized standard" of fire resistance, the report of an independent inquiry, published yesterday, states.

The inquiry was ordered by Humberside County Council, which owns the home, and had the support of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The report says the fire at Wensley Lodge, Beasley, near Hull, was caused accidentally by the ignition of fibre board in the boiler house ceiling by a plumber's blowtorch during repairs to a water pipe.

"That asbestos cement sheet of the ceiling proved wholly inappropriate," the report adds, "criticizes the evidence of the Department of the Environment's fire research station which suggested that elderly people in social services homes are safer from fire than in their own homes. That, the report says, must form an argument against degrading more resources to improving fire precautions, the standards required of hotels and boarding houses are higher."

"The public, rightly in my view, expect the highest possible standards of protection and safety from any local authority taking an elderly person into its care, and in our judgment, this expectation could best be met by designation, which would lead to the eventual adoption of standards adjudged to be the most appropriate for the type of service. It also criticizes lack of uniformity in the approach to fire precautions by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security."

The Wensley Lodge staff and the fire-fighters, stated as worthy of the gratitude of society, the report says, but it criticizes a breakdown in communications within the social service department, and very clear and precise instructions about fire precautions should not reach the staff at Wensley Lodge, it adds.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Spencer Rude, chairman of Humberside County Council's social services committee, said that in addition to the £120,000 already spent this year on fire precautions, at 103 homes for the elderly £125,000 had been allocated since publication of the report.

"It would require a huge sum to demolish and rebuild similar old hotels and boarding houses, and it would be for the Government to provide for the would be demolishing the report and its implications with the Secretary of State for Social Services, when he visits Hull today."

Staffing levels at the home were being looked into, a committee had been established to consider the implications of the report, and a programme of inspection of all residential homes had been started.

## In brief

### Vitamins short in harvest

Britain's record-breaking harvest this year is deficient in wheat, barley and oats, and the wheat and barley crops are low in vitamin E, needed for livestock feeding.

Research by scientists at the animal nutrition department of Roche Products shows that barley from the 1977 harvest contains only 16 international units of vitamin E, a kilogram, compared with 21 units last year.

### Shoplifting study

Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lynton, announced yesterday that he is setting up a group to study the increase in supermarket shoplifting charges.

### Landmark disappears

Demolition began yesterday on St Enoch's Hotel, one of Glasgow's most famous landmarks. Under a £15m redevelopment scheme offices and shops will be built on the site.

### Steelworks inquiry

Humberside CBI is investigating allegations of irregularities in contracts at British Steel's Scunthorpe works, it said yesterday.

### Traffic-control scheme

A £600,000 television system to monitor and control traffic in Northampton town centre begins operating today.

### Correction

The grants for two projects approved by the Schools Council were transposed in an article yesterday. The language across the curriculum project will last for a year with a grant of £12,100; the industry project for four years with a grant of £25,000.

## Lords attack on confusing EEC safety regulations

By Our Political Correspondent

Big changes in proposed EEC regulations on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, and they are widely applied throughout the world, including the EEC, for deciding on classification, packaging and labelling.

The committee of experts on the transport of dangerous goods, and they are widely applied throughout the world, including the EEC, for deciding on classification, packaging and labelling.

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## Fear of constant conflict hampers unions in catering

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

High labour turnover, "fiddles" and the unfavourable attitude of many employers are all obstructing union recruitment of hotel and catering workers, a bulletin published today by the Low Pay Unit says.

Many of the industry's 750,000 employees also fear that joining a union will lead to constant industrial conflict, according to the bulletin. Hotel managers are also accused of playing on a "total rewards system" which provides subsidised lodgings and food, tips and other untaxed rewards in addition to basic pay.

The system has helped to keep unionization in the industry down to an estimated 13 per cent, Mr Gerald Mars, of Middlesex Polytechnic, and Mr Peter Mitchell, of Leeds Polytechnic, say in one of four reports compiled for the bulletin.

They argue that more employees will join unions when they see that an income based on low taxable pay together with "hidden" benefits includes them from credit facilities including mortgages, "pilferage and fiddles" are also institutionalized. It becomes extremely easy to dismiss any employee on the ground of his being caught fiddling.

Mr Mitchell says the Transport and General Workers' Union and the General and Municipal Workers' Union may have missed a "major opportunity" for recruitment during jubilee year.

He recalls that the biggest growth achieved by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Barenders' International Union (HREI) in the United States was just before the 1939 New York World Fair. "By 1945 nearly all New York's major hotels were unionized, and today many of these hotels operate a closed-shop agreement with the appropriate locals (branches) of HREI."

In spite of a labour turnover which the economic development council for the industry estimated at an average 83 per cent in 1973, the large number of foreign employees, and the difficulty of recruiting members in small establishments, the environment for trade unionism is increasingly favourable, the report says.

Large companies used to unions are increasing their control of the industry, the report says.

Mr Fred Cooper, national industrial officer for the GMBU, says a recruitment drive by the union in the industry has increased membership to 15,000. But he maintains that unions have been forced to "bargain in the dark" because hotels are reluctant to reveal pay rates or other information. Catering for the Low Paid (The Low Pay Unit Bulletin, no 15, 35p).

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A Directory featuring some of the restaurants included in this series of advertisements is available to American Express Cardmembers. Please write to P.O. Box 70, Brighton BN2 1YP, quoting your Card account number.

### Bellhouse Hotel, Beaconsfield

In the peace of the countryside, in a lovely garden, near Henley, Marlow, Windsor and convenient for Heathrow. There are 120 bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones, radios and televisions. The restaurant, also open to non-residents, offers table d'hôte and à la carte menus, with a wide choice of wines. The golden exterior of the hotel is echoed in the colour schemes of the foyer, conference room, ballroom and bedrooms, giving an atmosphere of cheerfulness and spaciousness. Beaconsfield, Bucks. Beaconsfield 87211.

### The De Montfort, Kenilworth

In the heart of Shakespeare country, with its orchards, woodland, fields and black-and-white villages, the De Montfort stands in six acres of parkland with an open air swimming pool, bowling greens, tennis courts, pitch and

putt course and football ground. There are 155 bedrooms, conference and banquetting suites, and ample free parking. The Simon de Montfort restaurant offers a wide selection of English and Continental dishes, and at the Coffee Room you can enjoy an informal grill and griddle meal or snack. From here, you can visit Warwick Castle, the stately Packington Park, the Vale of Evesham, the Malvern Hills and the Cotswolds. Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Kenilworth 55911.

### The Royal Bath, Bournemouth

An attractive, white-walled Victorian hotel, built on a grand scale, standing in its own grounds, and a member of that rare and distinctive "club", Europe's 5-stars. It's ideal, both for a private stay, and conferences, for which there are suites of every size. There's a first class restaurant serving international cuisine, and an informal Buttery; a sauna, a swimming pool, and a supervised playground with a baby-sitting service at night. Stonehenge, Beaulieu, with its Veteran Car Museum, Longleat, Salisbury Cathedral and Corfe Castle – these are just a few of the fascinating places within easy reach. Bournemouth 25555.

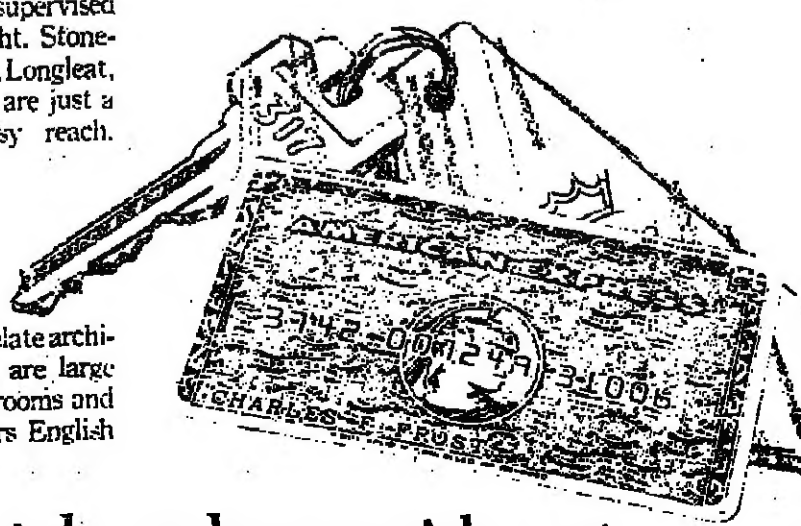
### De Vere Hotel, Coventry

A modern hotel, with international standards of comfort, cuisine and service, right by the Cathedral, to which it was designed to relate architecturally. The bedrooms, all double-glazed, are large twin-bedded studio rooms, with private bathrooms and television. The Three Spires Restaurant offers English

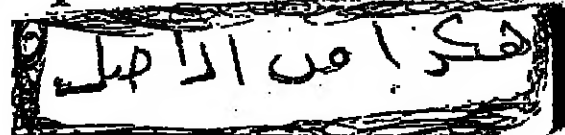
and Continental cuisine and fine wines. The Terrace Bar is a restaurant-coffee shop, and the Taverna is a large, cheerful pub-like bar. There are four conference rooms, the largest seating up to 400 for a banquet. Many of the rooms have magnificent views over Cathedral Square. Coventry itself is full of interest: there's the Belgrade Civic Theatre, St. Mary's Hall, the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, and of course Sir Basil Spence's famous modern Cathedral. Cathedral Square, Coventry. Coventry 51851.

### The Manor House, Royal Leamington Spa

The Manor House is set in a delightful Regency town – an oasis of peace in the very heart of England. A stay here will always be remembered with pleasure. The bedrooms are exquisitely furnished and many have private bathrooms. The cooking is excellent, and you have the choice of the Manor Restaurant for a 4-course meal, and the Saddle Room for steaks and grills. There are two bars and two conference rooms, one for large, the other for small, gatherings. The National Exhibition Centre, Coventry, Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth and Warwick are all within easy reach. While in Leamington itself you can recapture the spirit of the age of elegance in the late 18th century buildings, the beautiful landscaped Jephson Gardens, and the Royal Pump Room – only a couple of minutes' walk from the Manor House Hotel, Avenue Road, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Leamington Spa 23251.



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player to entertain you while you travel; a highly accurate quartz digital clock to keep you on time for business appointments; an economy indicator to help you drive at optimum engine efficiency; tilt-adjustable steering for your greater comfort; an array of warning lights, including one that will tell you if a passenger has not closed a door properly; a vanity mirror in the illuminated glove box; a special compartment for your favourite cassettes; superb alloy road wheels; and a host of other special features which your Datsun Dealer will show you.

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## WEST EUROPE

# EEC fishing proposals fail to compensate Britain for losses

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Oct 20

New proposals for sharing fish resources in the EEC's 200-mile zone in 1978 do not appear to meet the demands that the British Government has repeatedly made before it will sign any revised common fisheries policy.

These are that there should be a "dominant preference" for British fishermen up to 50 miles offshore, and that the catch quotas allocated to member states for different species should take account of their losses in non-EEC waters owing to the general extension of 200-mile fishing limits.

British officials here made clear that they were dissatisfied with the Commission's proposals. "They do not give us the compensation we are looking for," one said.

Britain's losses in non-EEC waters are acknowledged to be much greater than those of any other member state. However, no compensation for these losses has been allowed for in the catch allocations proposed by the European Commission here today.

This is justified by the Commission on two grounds. First, it argues that in the present inconclusive state of the Community's negotiations on reciprocal fishing rights with non-EEC countries, it cannot be presumed that all theoretically possible losses will in fact be sustained.

Second, the Commission says it would be difficult, if not impossible, to offer compensation in the same species as those to which access has been lost in non-EEC fishing grounds. Any such attempt would cause intolerable changes in fishing in EEC waters.

making agreement on a new common fisheries policy even more difficult, it believes.

As far as can be judged from the mass of figures released today by the Commission, which are now under study in national capitals and will be examined by EEC fisheries ministers in Luxembourg next week, no provision is made for the 50-mile "dominant preference" demanded by Britain in lieu of an exclusive coastal fishing zone.

The Commission is prepared only to grant "special consideration" to the catch levels to be given to the fishermen of north Britain, who are accepted as being specially dependent on fishing for their livelihood. In accordance with a previous understanding, Ireland, which has a very small but rapidly expanding fleet, would be allowed to increase its catch by two thirds over 1976 levels.

These adjustments aside, the catch distribution proposed by the Commission is based on the so-called NEAFC key—the system of voluntary national quotas agreed under the 1974 North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

However, volume of catch of many of the 60 species covered is sharply reduced under the Commission's proposals, in an effort to preserve dwindling stocks.

The Commission also proposes financial aid to restructure the fishing industry, restrain redundant fishermen and to create financial incentives to encourage trawlermen between the ages of 50 and 65 to retire.

A series of conservation measures is also proposed, including gill netting of certain species in certain areas.

## Champagne growers rely on British demand

From Hugh Clayton  
Epernay, Oct 20

French farmers expect Britain to be the main recovery by buying more champagne. Growers expect Britain to overtake Italy and Belgium and regain the primacy it held until 1973 as the leading consumer of champagne after France.

More than 10 million bottles were bought in Britain in that year. Sales then fell by more than half and by 1976 had recovered to only 5,250,000. They are expected to reach at least 6,500,000 this year.

M. Henri Geoffroy, the president of the Champagne

Growers' Union, said here yesterday that British sales might reach eight million bottles this year.

Producers have just finished a late harvest of high quality with a chance of producing wine worthy of vintage status.

M. Geoffroy was speaking at the headquarters of Molt et Chandon, the champagne company. Its market offices stand over the entrance to 18 miles of cellars in which the oldest unopened bottle dates from 1893. "People drink champagne either when the economy is improving well or when it is deteriorating very badly," he said.



Nine women and seven men are being hunted by West Germany as suspected terrorists. They are, top, left to right, Susanne Albrecht, Elisabeth van Dyck, Rolf Heissler, Christian Klar, Friederike Krabbe, Jörg Lang, Silke Maier-Witt and Brigitte Mohaupt. Bottom, left to right, Juliane Plambeck, Barbara Adelheid Schulz, Angelika Speitel, Sigrid Sternbeck, Willy Peter Stoll, Ing e Viett, Rolf Clemens Wagner and Christoph Michael Wackernagel.

## Bonn to press for international action against terrorism

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Oct 20

The longest and most appalling terrorist crime in West German history has ended in part victory, part defeat for the country's leadership.

More than any previous outrage, the kidnapping of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the industrialist's chief, reinforced by the hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner with 87 hostages on board, was a test of the state's ability to face up to terror tactics.

In the German view the principal lesson to be learned from the experience is that international cooperation is essential in fighting what has become an international problem. Without the permission and help of the Somali Government, the rescue operation would have been impossible.

Bonn is now expected to press this point even more strongly in the United Nations and at all other possible opportunities.

Domestically the outcome was politically important for the Social Democratic-Free Democrat Government, accused in recent weeks by the Christian Democrat opposition and a large section of public opinion of not being resolute enough in dealing with terrorism.

By refusing to release 11 jailed terrorists, as the kidnappers demanded, the Government, in agreement with opposition and Land leaders, has now demonstrated that the state can stand firm against the most atrocious blackmail.

The Government's strategy of playing for time, its coolness and the official news blackout, which enabled it to manoeuvre with greater ease, has earned for Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, and his colleagues new respect, admiration and prestige.

On the minus side was the failure, during the six weeks he was held captive, to locate Herr

Schleyer and his kidnappers, and prevent his murder.

From the terrorists' point of view the exploit was not entirely unsuccessful. Although they failed to get their comrades released, they succeeded in riveting the attention of the country for much of the past six weeks.

And while a show of business as usual was maintained in Bonn, the terrorists managed to keep West Germany's political life in a state of partial paralysis until the hijacking was over. Official visits by Herr Schmidt to Warsaw and by Mr Callaghan to Bonn were postponed. Police in West Germany and several European countries were tied up in fruitless searches.

Another terrorist "success" was the polemic and undignified squabbling that broke out between right and left about who was to blame for terrorism. The right-wing press and politicians accused the left, includ-

ing leading intellectuals and politicians, of contributing to the phenomenon; and they, in turn, claimed that the right was conducting a witch-hunt and creating a "program atmosphere". Twice President Schöler had to intervene with an appeal for moderation.

In a sense, even the suicides of three most notorious terrorists in jail was a victory. After the rescue of the air hostages in Mogadishu, when all hope of release vanished, they turned to the only weapon at their disposal—their own lives.

And over the whole scene there still hangs the threat of more terrorism to come. Even before the murder of Dr Schleyer was known, Herr Willy Brandt, Catholic bishop and planned attack with rockets, the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, Herr Schleyer's kidnapping and the murders of his chauffeur and three bodyguards and the Lufthansa hijacking.

Godwin Enslin, mark the end of the first generation of West German terrorists, the Baader-Meinhof group. Their places have been taken by others, perhaps weaker on ideology and stronger on organization and sheer cruelty.

The federal criminal office has issued the names, photographs and descriptions of 12 people it is convinced belong to this new "hard core", and of other four strong suspects.

These people are believed to have been involved in some or all of the terrorist outrages this year—the murders of the Dresdner Bank executive, Jürgen Ponto and the federal prosecutor, Siegfried Buback with his three-man escort, a planned attack with rockets, the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, Herr Schleyer's kidnapping and the murders of his chauffeur and three bodyguards and the Lufthansa hijacking.

## Apology to Le Monde by EEC Commission

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The European Commission apologized for the publication of an article attacking *Le Monde* in the monthly magazine of the Commission's press and information office in Bonn.

A statement issued in Brussels earlier this week says that the Commission in no way approve of the opinion expressed by the journalists concerned.

Bearing in mind the special nature of monthly press information magazines, the statement adds that the Commission "regrets and profoundly deplores" what happened, and will take steps to ensure that such mistakes do not occur again.

Although this apology would seem to have closed the incident, so far as the Commission is concerned, there is no doubt that senior members of the staff at *Le Monde* have been extremely upset at this attack on editorial policy.

The disclaimer of editorial support contained in the Commission magazine was limited to a line and a half in small type specifying that signed article did not always reflect the editor's opinion. In *Le Monde* view this is quite different from its own practice of publishing readers' views under the heading *Libres opinions*.

But the fundamental cause for anger and resentment at *Le Monde* was the article's sweeping attack on the staff itself. It claimed that "cynical nihilists were largely responsible for giving the newspaper its image" and that a hard core of far-left extremists and communists manipulated editorial opinion.

Such accusations, in *Le Monde* considered judgment amounted to editorially sanctioned libel.

## Heavy fine and jail for Briton on drugs charge

Harebronn, France, Oct 20.—Robert Allan Jones, aged 35, who gave his personal address as Harrowden Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex, was sentenced here yesterday to four years in prison and fine 433,600 francs (nearly £50,000) for breaking French drug law.

Court officials said Mr Jones was arrested on the Belgian frontier near here in July and charged with being in possession of 2.75 kilograms (4.6 lb) of cannabis and 400 gms (0.88 lb) of cocaine. He told the court he bought the drugs in Amsterdam and was taking them to Dunkirk, where he had been promised 3,500 francs.

The court ordered the seizure of his car.—Reuters.

## Votes urged for Britons living in EEC

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament, last night attacked the Government for delaying the Bill on direct elections to the European Parliament and for refusing to give British citizens who live and work in Europe the right to vote.

Speaking in Brussels, he said the Government's excuse to the 270,000 British who worked in Europe was that the necessary provisions would hold up the legislation. "This is just not true," he said.

"Giving people the right to vote, wherever they live in the Community, will help people feel that they are citizens of Europe."

"Who has a better right to express their European ideal in the ballot box than those who have already crossed the national frontier and live and work and serve us in our own community?"

## Struggle against violence preoccupies Pope

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Oct 20

The Vatican announced today that the Pope was preparing an appeal to halt the spread of violence. This highly unusual anticipation of a papal message was explained by the fact that the subject is "tragically topical, and it reflects a major preoccupation of his holiness."

The appeal against violence will be contained in the Pope's message for the next World Day of Peace on January 1. This advance news comes after the Pope's dramatic offer earlier this week to take the place of the 86 hostages held by terrorists on a Lufthansa airliner at Mogadishu. He reaffirmed this offer yesterday if circumstances should require it.

Violence threatens, disfigures or destroys human life, the Vatican statement pointed out, even though it might appear, under certain aspects, as a reaction to life.

The statement continues: "In fact, violence may come from people or groups seized by a frenzy of power or of possession—a frenzy which tends unduly to limit or suppress the lives of other people or societies in such forms as racism, genocide, and the imposition and maintenance by force of an unjust and discriminatory political or economic structure."

"Violence can also characterize the manner of acting of those who are or who consider themselves oppressed, and whose desire for life and justice finally explodes in violence. This is the violence of the weak,

those who are deprived of certain fundamental rights.

"No to violence, yes to peace; the duty is clear. Violence exists everywhere, it is a fact. It is a social and political obstacle because violence breeds violence, and for this reason it is a mistake. It is a misfortune and a moral evil: one must therefore freely and as a duty in conscience, refuse it, combat it, replace it."

"The subject of the forthcoming message—no to violence, yes to peace—is seen as an appeal to reason and fraternal love. And therefore brings us all—individuals and societies—face to face with a choice vital to civilization."

"For this same reason it is also an appeal to action, to break the escalation of violence, to action by each individual

who is called to conversion, to community and organized action within each nation, to action in relationships between peoples."

By coincidence, one of the two speakers at the Vatican's weekly press conference on the international synod of Roman Catholic bishops was Cardinal Fréchal, the Archbishop of Calcutta, speaking for the Asian church which has impressed Western members with its contemplative approach to Christianity's problems.

He spoke of the church in Asia as one among the great ancient religions of the world. They have lofty ideals and have much to teach us. But the church with her belief in Jesus our saviour has treasures to unfold to them."

## Union of Left divides again on nuclear aims

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Oct 20

The French Socialist Party has added yet another item of contention to its long list of disagreements with its Communist partners in the Union of the Left.

Its executive committee decided yesterday to call for a suspension of any new phase in the Government's 1974 nuclear energy programme, and for a moratorium on the construction of the 1,200 megawatt fast breeder reactor at Creys-Malville, near Grenoble, and of all other reactors of this type for industrial purposes.

The Socialists want the 1974 programme suspended for at least 18 months.

The Communists maintain that the development of the peaceful use of nuclear power is essential if France is to have an independent energy supply. They have rejected any suggestion of a moratorium. At a press conference last month, M. Georges Marchais, the secretary general, said that it would be "nihilistic and demagogic" not to resort to nuclear energy, although all the necessary security precautions should be taken.

The Socialist's decision is inspired by the concern and opposition of many of its militants to the Government's nuclear energy programme, and by the desire to carry favour with the ecologists, who may tip the scales in the parliamentary elections next March.

It remains to be seen whether postponing the construction of fast breeder reactors, and setting up an interim nuclear energy programme will satisfy their demands.

The Socialist's decision, which is to be ratified at a national congress on energy early next month, calls for a "bigger emphasis on coal, hydro-electric power and natural gas to compensate for the cut in the nuclear energy programme. It also calls for a study of new sources of energy and for energy-saving measures."

L'Humanité, the Communist newspaper, commenting on the Socialist's decision, said: "Either M. Mitterrand [the Socialist leader] comes out clearly for a moratorium, which means selling out our independence in energy to the Americans, or he is indulging in a purely electoral exercise of fishing for the ecologists' votes."

The Communists maintain that the development of the peaceful use of nuclear power is essential if France is to have an independent energy supply. They have rejected any suggestion of a moratorium. At a press conference last month, M. Georges Marchais, the secretary general, said that it would be "nihilistic and demagogic" not to resort to nuclear energy, although all the necessary security precautions should be taken.

## Britain to be sued for not using 'spy in the cab'

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Oct 20

The European Commission is to open legal proceedings against Britain for failure to obey EEC rules requiring the installation of tachographs in the cabs of new lorries and those carrying dangerous loads.

The tachograph is a device for recording driving time, speed and distance travelled, and can also record rest periods. There is bitter opposition to it among British drivers who call it "the spy in the cab".

The tachograph has been generally welcomed in the Commission as a means of ensuring fair competition and better working conditions and outlawing the "cowboy" driver. One fear in Britain is that the machine could be used to restrict overtime earning.

The cost of installing the tachograph is another reason for its ill-repute in the British haulage industry. According to the Commission, the tachograph costs about £100 more than the old speedometers it replaces in

new vehicles. To install it in existing vehicles costs between £150 and £200.

The Commission argues that tired and overworked drivers are a danger to themselves and the public. Other means of transport, including air and rail, are strictly monitored, and there is no reason why road transport should escape the same kind of control.

The tachograph should have been introduced in Britain from the beginning of 1976. Vehicles going abroad already use it. Until now, the Commission has turned a blind eye to this infringement.

Britain also faces difficulties over a related EEC regulation which would limit drivers to a maximum of eight hours driving a day. Britain's exemption from this requirement expires at the end of the year.

Next week in Luxembourg, Mr William Rodgers, the Minister of Transport, will ask other member states to allow Britain a further phasing-in period of three years.

## Italian soldiers killed in helicopter crash

Padua, Oct 20.—Five soldiers were killed when an Italian Army helicopter caught fire after crashing near here today. The cause of the accident was not yet known.—Reuters.

## Radar for fogbound Venice water buses

Venice, Oct 20.—The municipal water buses of Venice used radar equipment today when thick fog cut visibility to 20 yards. Venice airport and that of neighbouring Treviso were closed.—Reuters.

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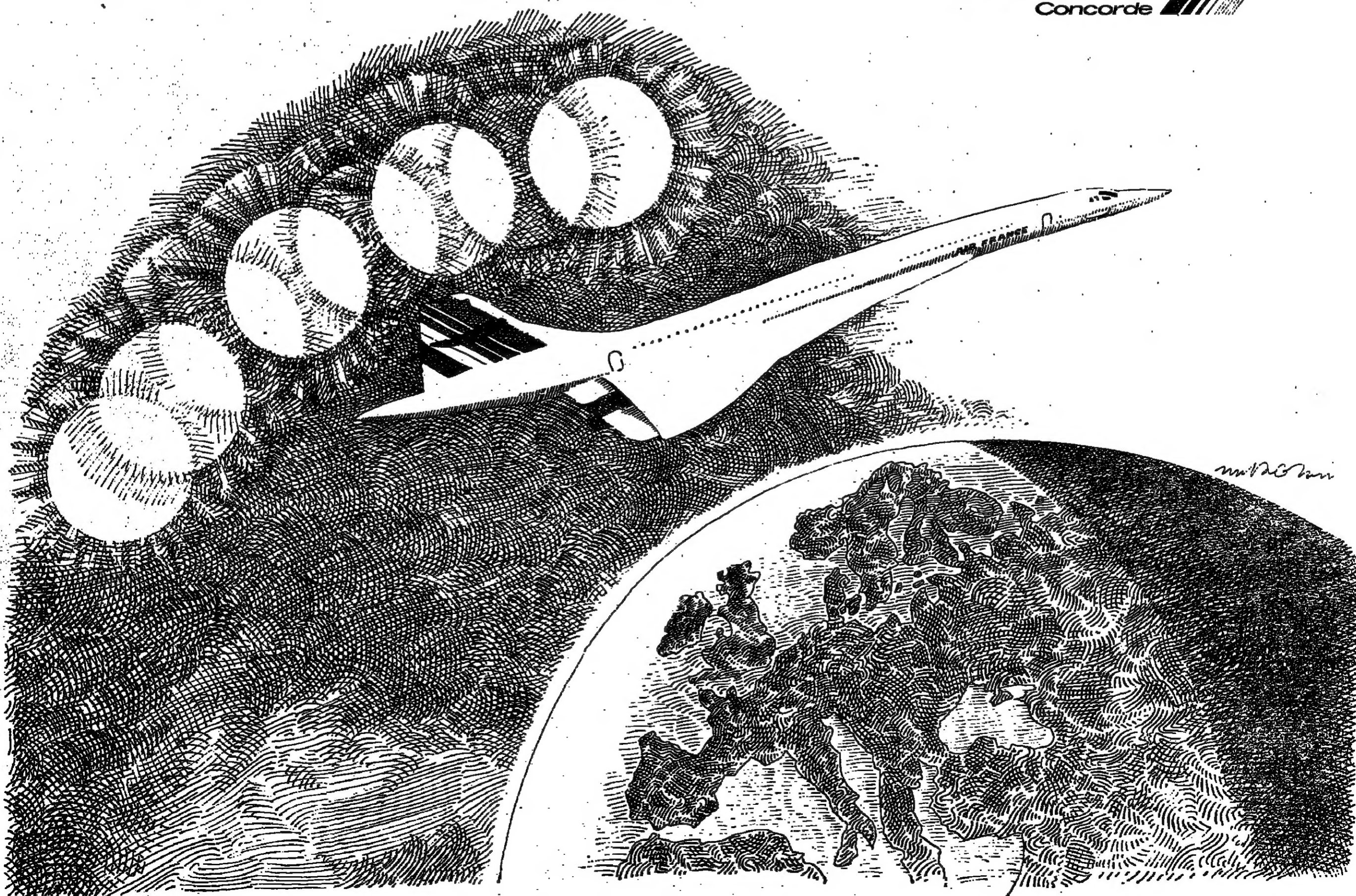
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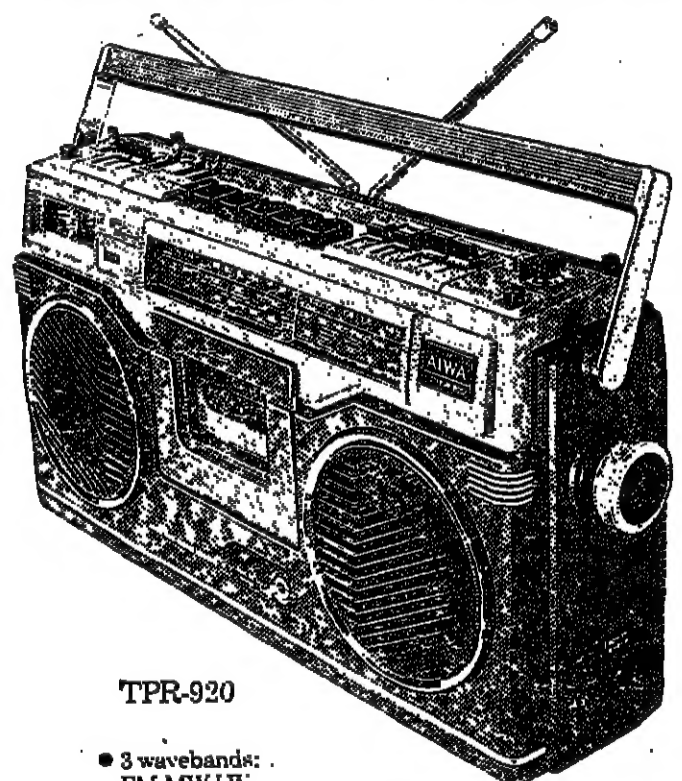
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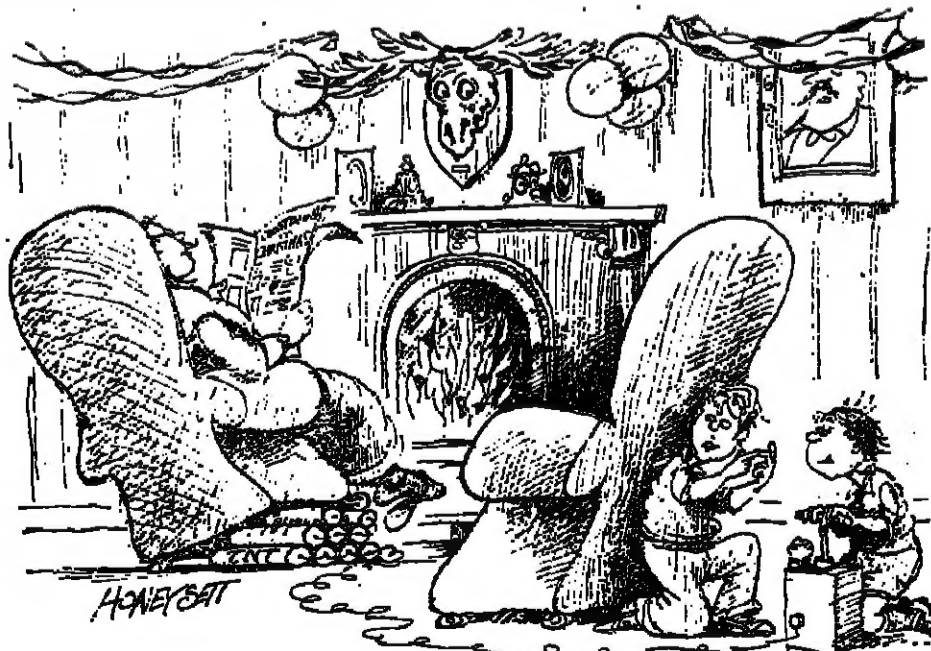
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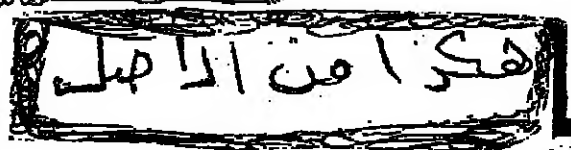
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O! Twelve days of presents—Eleven aunts to buy for—Ten toes for breaking—Nine lives for losing—Eight shops to choose from—Seven full of people—Six to death of seeking—Five golden rings—Four easy choosing—Free from the pressure—To find what's wanted—One reads Christmas Countdown—(Each Saturday from Oct. 29th in The Times)—With good ideas for free!—So you'll get your partridge—And your pear tree.



## OVERSEAS

### Syria starts diplomatic offensive to rally Arabs against US-Israeli plan for Geneva talks

Beirut, Oct. 20.—Syria has stepped up a diplomatic campaign, apparently to rally Arabs against the American-Israeli plan to reconvene the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Naji Jamil, the Deputy Defence Minister, flew to Cairo today with a message from President Assad of Syria for President Sadat of Egypt. It was expected to reflect Syrian displeasure with an American-Israeli working paper on procedure for resuming the 1973 Arab-Israeli talks in Geneva.

Official sources in Damascus said that Mr. Assad-Halim Khadum, the Foreign Minister, would soon tour several other Arab countries to brief their leaders on Syria's attitude towards the working paper, which was endorsed by the Israeli Cabinet earlier this month.

Israeli reports say the paper ruled out Palestinian representation at Geneva by members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.), named as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians at a 1974 Arab League summit.

Syria, whose President has

gloomily predicted that only a miracle can prevent another Arab-Israeli war, sees the working paper as a brake on progress towards peace.

The Syrian Foreign Minister has said that his country would not go to Geneva without the P.L.O. Egypt, the Arab world's most persistent advocate of American-sponsored peace moves, yesterday also affirmed that the P.L.O. was the only organization which had the right to speak for Palestinians.

Arab diplomats in Beirut said the Syrian drive for P.L.O. representation, and for a hard-line against the American-Israeli working paper, had the blessing of Moscow.

Observers here said the present Syrian diplomatic push was coordinated with the P.L.O., partly as means to raise the bargaining stakes and make the Americans exert more pressure on Israel.

Syria today confirmed that it had nominated an ambassador to Damascus, a move interpreted here as the possible beginning of a reconciliation between the uneasy neighbours.

Iraq is the chief backer of the Palestinian Rejection Front of

commando groups opposed to any negotiated Middle East settlement under the present balance of power in the area. The Libyans support a similar line.

P.L.O. reference: Egypt has asked the United States to reinsert a reference to the P.L.O. in the working paper, according to the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram published in Cairo today.

It was commenting in a speech yesterday by Mr. Ismail Fahmy, the Foreign Minister, in which he said President Sadat had requested amendments and clarifications to the United States working paper as accepted by Israel.

Air defences: The Israeli Air Force today staged an exercise to test the country's air defences. Israeli air space was closed for seven hours to all civilian flights as military jets screamed over Tel Aviv, breaking the sound barrier.

Mig overhaul: The United States has agreed to overhaul the engines of many of Egypt's Soviet-built Mig-21 fighter aircraft, Mr. Fahmy announced in Cairo.—Reuters and UPI.



The Prince with Chicago's mayor clasps the outstretched hand of an admirer during his city walkabout.

### Prince finds Chicago his kind of town

Chicago, Oct. 20.—The Prince of Wales, dubbed "Charles the Charming" by the local press, took Chicago by storm on the first full day of his 13-day tour of a dozen American cities.

Prince Charles, who is 28, was mobbed by admirers wherever he went yesterday, with crowds cheering and shouting to get to him. Thousands of office workers poured into the streets of the city's financial district when he made a triumphal walkabout there in the morning.

The Prince, accompanied by Mr. Michael Blumenthal, the mayor, repeatedly plunged into the crowd, creating a security problem for scores of police and federal agents assigned to protect them.

I must have shaken about a dozen hands and I also received numerous delicious Chicago kisses," the Prince said later at a banquet in his honour. "I've never come across such astonishing friendliness. It was truly marvellous."

In mock lament, he noted the crowds were full of young girls and middle-aged matrons.

He also referred to some of his other activities here. He said he was rushed through the arcades so quickly that he only got an impression of the impressionist paintings.

The Prince also visited the University of Chicago, where, in a question-and-answer session with about 60 students, he was pressed into defending the monarchy and his ancestor, King George III, who reigned during the American Revolution.

Of the monarchy, he said: "In a way, the monarchy fills a certain need or desire in some people here. I think its greatest advantage is that it's human, above politics."

Of George III, the Prince said he preferred to think of his great-great-great-grandfather as a patron of arts, letters and science rather than as a tyrant.

Demonstrators protesting against the British presence in Northern Ireland appeared twice during the day, but did not disturb the Prince's activities.

Later he travelled on to Cleveland, Ohio.—Reuters

### US maritime unions rebuffed by Congress

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Oct. 20.—The House of Representatives has delivered another defeat to the American labour movement and to President Carter with its decisive rejection of a Bill giving preference to American oil tankers. The Bill would have provided that 9.5 per cent of all imported oil should be delivered in American-built and owned tankers.

President Carter had promised to support this legislation during his election campaign, and kept his promise in a vigorous attack from liberals, who claimed that the proposed law was corrupt and against the national interest.

The Citizens' lobby, Common Cause, pointed out that 215 members of the House had received campaign contributions of nearly \$500,000 (\$270,000 in all from maritime unions).

The unions supported Mr. Carter and his critics claimed that this Bill was the reward. The vote in the House yesterday was 257 to 165.

They had fully expected to win and indeed, one stage they thought that they had. At the end of the debate, Mr. Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker, called a voice vote and adjudged that the "yeas" had it.

Mr. Paul McCloskey, the Bill's chief opponent, a liberal Republican, then requested a roll-call vote. At first the speaker was not inclined to grant it on the ground that Mr. McCloskey had not jumped to his feet quickly enough.

The Bill's supporters, however, confident that they were going to win, urged Mr. O'Neill to call the roll.

### Cholera halted but 'not stamped out'

Geneva, Oct. 20.—The cholera epidemic which broke out in Africa and Asia last month appears to have been checked but not stamped out, the World Health Organization said.

Said affected were Angola, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Syria and Thailand.

It was still impossible to find out how many people had died of the disease because WHO depended on official statistics. Several countries were still unwilling to admit that cholera had crossed their borders.

Agence France Press

### Concorde stays within noise limit

New York, Oct. 20.—The Concorde made its first take-off from Kennedy airport today and it appeared to have passed noise tests easily.

British Airways said the aircraft's noise did not register on a monitor installed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Kennedy, in the critical Howard Beach area of Queens borough. This indicated that its noise was below 105 perceived noise decibels and well below the 112 decibel limit imposed at Kennedy.

On British Airways' own monitor, Concorde registered 106, well below the limit. It took off on a route which skirted Howard Beach, a section which has led the fight against allowing the aircraft to land here. Then it made a 25-degree turn, taking its noise out to sea.

In its first flight here yesterday, Concorde registered 105 on landing. Its take-off noise was expected to be louder than that.—Reuters and AP.

### Federal poll possible over Quebec

From Our Correspondent

Ottawa, Oct. 20.—The federal Government intends to pass a Bill enabling it to conduct its own referendum on Quebec independence, Mr. Trudeau, the Prime Minister, announced last night.

However, he carefully avoided saying that a federal referendum would be held. The secessionist Parti Québécois Government plans a referendum in Quebec within two years on the issue of separation.

Mr. Trudeau, speaking in the House of Commons, said: "We want to meet the Parti Québécois on grounds as favourable to federalism as the Parti Québécois wants it to be favourable to separation."

All Canadians must have a say on the political future of Quebec, Mr. Trudeau said. That's why we'll be presenting a law on a national referendum.

He compared the Quebec separatists to a surgeon who amputates a patient's arm without the patient's permission.

### First throne speech by the Queen in Nassau

From Michael Leapman

Nassau, Oct. 20

The Queen opened the Bahamas Parliament today in a small-scale but picturesque ceremony in keeping with the rest of her visit here. A few things did not go quite according to plan, and the Queen's glasses, which she has been wearing on these occasions, nearly slipped from her nose once. But everyone appeared to enjoy the occasion.

It was a public holiday and a fairly large crowd had gathered to see the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drive in an open Rolls-Royce the short distance from the royal yacht to the parliament and white Parliament building, which dates from the early nineteenth century. The day was sunny and warm.

The band of soldiers in white helmets and white jackets had been set up along the route. The band of soldiers in white helmets and white jackets had been set up along the route.

The Queen found herself going into matters with which she can hardly have been familiar. She spoke of the need to protect marine plant and animal life, and spoke in favour of the archipelago concept of defining national boundaries.

### South Africa draws back into the white laager Vorster Government 'set on path of total dictatorship'

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Oct. 20

Two main themes have arisen from all the virulent condemnation of yesterday's bannings, detentions and closures of newspapers by the South African Government. First, that South Africa has irrevocably set itself on the path towards establishing a total dictatorship, and second, that it has finally decided once and for all to turn its back on the world and withdraw into the white laager.

The opposition Rand Daily Mail has no doubts about this. It said the country was going into a front-page leading article headed "Into an age of darkness." It said that there could no longer be any doubt about South Africa's being led into "an age of dictatorship in which the last lights of freedom and dissent are extinguished."

Even allowing for the newspapers' well-known hostility towards anything which the South African Government may do or say, it is hard to find grounds for hope that its conclusion may be wrong.

Two newspapers have been closed; virtually every black organization of any note has been proscribed; the best and, on the whole, most moderate black leaders have been locked away; one of the few organizations which had the respect of blacks, the Christian Institute, has been closed and its principals banned.

These are the actions of a Government which, having found that its policies have failed, resorts to drastic measures in order to retain its hold on power.

In closing The World and The Weekend World, demanding Mr. Percy Qoboza, the editor of The World, and banning Mr. Donald Woods, editor of the East London Daily Dispatch.

Both men are members of the Institute, which represents about 2,000 leading editors in more than 60 countries.

In a telegram from its London headquarters to Mr. Vorster and Mr. Kruger, the Minister of Justice, the Institute also protested at the closure of The World and the banning of the Union of Black Journalists.

Woods, the editor of the East London Daily Dispatch, the Government has delivered a serious blow to press freedom. It is clear that the Government is not only determined to reintroduce the Press Bill which came before Parliament last March but then suspended for a year. It can simply make use of Art. 17 which was originally brought in in the 1950s to deal with communist publications.

"Once you start to close newspapers you are over the narrow line which separates Western democratic societies from a dictatorship," commented one senior journalist today.

Dr. Connie Mulder, the Minister of the Interior, has indicated that the Government will not hesitate to take action against other newspapers if it thinks it necessary. So the newspapers have effectively been told to behave themselves or suffer the consequences.

As serious as the curbing of the press is the elimination of every outside of black opposition outside the Bantu system has potentially even more serious consequences. The names of those who have been placed in preventive detention read like a "Who's Who" of the country's moderate and articulate black leadership.

This can only create even more problems for the Government in the long run. For although Mr. James Kruger, the Minister of Justice and Police, likes to hear from black South Africans' hatred of apartheid and their desire to be free of it. Inevitably the blacks will resort to more drastic measures. And with the extremists will take over.

The fact that the black majority no longer has an

organization or a mouthpiece through which to express itself has dangers for both whites and blacks. As the Johannesburg Financial Mail commented today: "The fact that their voices are now stifled means that South Africa has become virtually a closed society—a society where Government acts, and Parliament legislates, not from a position of knowledge but from one of ignorance."

Having made use of its arsenal of security legislation to stifle black opinion, the Government is now intending to use constitutional means to decimate the white opposition.

No one doubts that next month's election will bring an overwhelming victory for Mr. Vorster, the Prime Minister, and the National Party. Having achieved this, the Government will introduce its new constitutional plan for whites, coloureds (mixed race) and Indians which will not only diminish the role of what is left of the white opposition but endow a future executive president with almost dictatorial powers.

The Government has been at pains to emphasize that it is not its intention to turn South Africa into a dictatorship. Yesterday's action, according to Mr. Kruger, was solely designed to maintain the peace and security of the state, not to crush dissent. The new president, it is explained, will be elected every five years and, therefore, cannot be a dictator.

It may be, as one commentator remarked today, that there is no commitment on the part of the Government to establish a dictatorship. "But it is placing itself in a position where it will be increasingly forced to introduce new and repressive acts. The end result, whether the Government wishes it or not, will be a dictatorship."

The Moscow groups involved are the group for collaboration in the fulfilment of the Helsinki accords, the working committee investigating the mis-

### Peking's mayor and army chief told to admit errors

Peking, Oct. 20.—The Mayor of Peking and the commander of the Peking military region, both Politburo members, seem to be under attack with demands for their admission of past mistakes.

Criticism of the mayor, Mr. Wu Teh, who is 64, appeared last January. Big characters posters, appearing at Peking University, called him a "footman of the gang of four," a reliable source said. Attacks are also made against the Peking party committee, of which he is the first secretary.

Also under attack is General Chen Bihuan, aged 63, a Deputy Premier, and commander of the Peking military region.

Both he and the mayor were asked during a recent meeting of the Peking party committee to make their self criticism.

Last January they were severely denounced in a poster campaign in the centre of Peking on the occasion of the

first anniversary of the death of Chou En-lai. Their roles in the riots which broke out on Tian An Men Square on April 5, 1976 were criticized.

Mr. Wu Teh, chairman of the capital's revolutionary committee, appeared for calm on the night of the riots and denounced the demonstrators. He was the last high level leader to call officially for the termination of the criticism of Teng Tiao-ying. Since then, the "gang of four" led by Mao Zedong, Chou En-lai, and more or less been officially accused of causing the riots.

Observers noted that General Chen is being questioned, as the armed forces have undergone important reshuffles. The mayor, he was denounced in the An Men riots and the "criticism" posters demanded that he should be transferred. He was in Peking—Agence France Press.

### Moscow dissidents seeking security in Brussels link

Moscow, Oct. 20.—Members of three active dissident groups in Moscow announced today that they were affiliating themselves to an international human rights group formed earlier this year in Brussels.

The international group, founded by members of the Belgian Parliament, is called the Helsinki Agreements implementation group. It has members in several countries.

The Soviet dissidents said they hoped to derive some security from affiliation with an international group and that other East European dissidents would follow suit.

The Moscow groups involved are the group for collaboration in the fulfilment of the Helsinki accords, the working committee investigating the mis-

uses of psychiatry and the Christian committee defending the rights of believers in the Soviet Union.

Twelve Soviet dissidents are involved. They told Western reporters they expected to be active in Brussels. No one in the town of Brussels today for

As a sign of international solidarity, the dissidents issued a statement supporting the human rights activists in Tuesday to prison terms ranging from 14 months to three and a half years.

"Today we announce our solidarity with those sentenced in Prague and express our support and respect," the statement said. "Their crime is the desire to see their country free and happy."

### Argentina mourns loss of La Plata opera house

From Andrew Tarnowski

Buenos Aires, Oct. 20

Musicians are mourning the loss of Argentina's oldest opera house, the Teatro Argentino de La Plata, which was damaged irreparably by a two-hour fire on Tuesday.

Its loss leaves the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires as the only surviving opera house in a country of 26 million inhabitants.

The fire, which spread despite the efforts of 400 firemen and police, was started, apparently, by an overheated spotlight while about 100 children of the theatre's ballet school were practising.

Seating an audience of 1,500, the Teatro Argentino was built in 1880, with a performance of Verdi's *Otello* as the scene of tragedy. The singers such as Beniamino Gigli and Titta Ruffo.

"In the critical time which the country is living through, the loss of this paper, La Opinión, is a great blow," said a spokesman of the theatre.

The fire, which spread despite the efforts of 400 firemen and police, was started, apparently, by an overheated spotlight while about 100 children of the theatre's ballet school were practising.

The fire, which spread despite the efforts of 400 firemen and police, was started, apparently, by an overheated spotlight while about 100 children of the theatre's ballet school were practising.



## OVERSEAS

## General's fall shows political fragility of the Brazilian giant

From Patrick Knight  
São Paulo, Oct 20

The illusion that Brazil's armed forces in power since 1964 are still a united coherent force has been shattered by last week's dismissal of General Sylvio Frota, the Army Minister.

Long a tacit opponent of President Geisel and the President's efforts to gradually modify and soften the political system, General Frota had begun to move in recent weeks as a serious presidential candidate.

The general, spokesman for the military hardliners, said in a strong statement after his dismissal that he had become increasingly concerned with the course being taken by the Government and its growing distance from Army thinking.

General Frota's dismissal has been seen as the "first step towards communism being imposed on Brazil". He also criticized the recognition of Angola's Marxist Government, and Brazil's abstention over Cuba's Communist Government.

He had told the National Information Service about 97 Marxists at high levels in the Government and the Army, but nothing had been done.

General Frota's dismissal highlights the two different tendencies within the armed forces.

The Geisel line, pragmatic and relatively moderate in domestic terms, has accepted that if waning middle-class support is not to be entirely lost, participation in decision-making must be extended to a broader range of groups.

The President's emissaries have been sounding out leaders of a wide range of interests in recent weeks. Church leaders, the lawyers' association, businessmen, and representatives of different opinions within the two political parties have been consulted. The aim is to have a new political model ready for implementation by the new President when he takes office in early 1979.

This process, a continuation of President Geisel's own government, is anathema to the military hardliners. They want status quo to continue and this they are supported by a group of immensely wealthy businessmen and landowners who have a tremendous amount of money and are prepared to go to any lengths to prevent change.

General Frota was in charge of the military police and the repressive apparatus in Brazil. He was the leading figure in the violent raid on the São Paulo Catholic University a few weeks ago, when the fiery city police chief, an ardent and committed, claimed to have diverted large stocks of subversive literature.

Dozens of students have been arrested under the draconian curfew laws and there also have been moves against journalists and editors of two of the leading newspapers in recent weeks. Five journalists have been charged under the curfew laws.

In the economic sphere, President Geisel and his ministers have developed a fairly pragmatic view of the world. Brazil's business with Angola,

Mozambique, China and the Soviet blocs then but because with massive debts to pay it must trade with everybody.

The communist world now is an important trading partner, while negotiations with Cuba and Angola are vital for Brazil's own coffee and sugar interests.

There has been support for some time for General João Batista Figueiredo, head of the National Information Service, and a favourite to become the next President. However, a group of 45 government party senators, concerned with what might happen to their privileges if the expected changes in the system came to pass, announced their support for the Frota candidature last week.

No similar group had done the same for General Figueiredo because President Geisel has forbidden open campaigning until January next year. General Figueiredo had been wise enough to restrain his backers.

The Frota group seemed to be gaining considerable momentum. This was partly an illusion created by the press, tired of endlessly discussing General Figueiredo. But the fact that President Geisel acted so fast is a potential indication of the Frota line, although the President has taken advantage of the situation to strengthen his position.

It remains to be seen whether General Figueiredo will emerge strengthened. He sits at the centre of the spider's web that is the Information Service, with facts about everything that matters in Brazil fed in by thousands of agents in all walks of life. But he is not much liked by the Army regional commanders.

He has not "stood out in the rain and sun" as they say, being one of the intellectual wing of the Army, who now seem to have consolidated themselves in power. He is also not a four-star general and for him to become one would involve some juggling with seniority that could create ill feeling.

The Frota episode will probably end the hopes of the so-called civilian candidate, the veteran Senator Magalhães Pinto, who was counting on a political impasse occurring with two generals at loggerheads.

With impeccable credentials (he was governor of Minas Gerais state where the 1964 military coup was hatched) he might have been expected to emerge as a compromise candidate acceptable to the Army.

He has no fears of communism or subversion in high places. He told me that the Brazilian people are mature enough to look after their own security without needing the Army to lead them by the hand. "The revolution is complete," he says.

General Frota's dismissal will certainly not be the last dramatic move in the long run-up to choosing the President, still more than a year away. But it is important as an illustration of how fragile the political structure still is in this huge country. Control of the troops and tanks is still what matters.

## Nicaraguan capital braced for new guerrilla assault

Managua, Nicaragua, Oct. 20. Soldiers behind sandbag barriers in central Managua are braced today for new raids by leftist guerrillas which have been staging attacks in the last days at Government outposts in the capital.

Army roadblocks surround the capital and troops with sub-machine guns are in place behind sandbag bunkers downtown.

The director of the National University of Managua acknowledged that there could be more violence when the 15,000 troops, many of whom support the guerrillas, return from vacation on Monday.

Guerrillas attacked the National Guard forces yesterday at a crossroad near the Sabán Grande, five miles from Managua. No soldiers were reported killed in the town of Sabán, 15 miles east of here, were preparing today for

another attack by members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, who swept into town last Monday and started killing and looting. At least 10 were killed and dozens more injured.

In Masaya, soldiers were posted on top of the highest buildings and military officials sporadically ordered city officials to lock the doors and windows of all government buildings in preparation for another attack.

Sources said that at least six Sandinista guerrillas had found political asylum in the Mexican Embassy. Embassies and Nicaraguan radio reported that one other guerrilla was at the Venezuelan Embassy. The French deny the reports.

The Sandinistas, named after an Army general who opposed the United States' military intervention in Nicaragua in the 1930s, have been active in the country for 16 years.—UPI

## Victoria power dispute delayed

Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Oct 20  
The fate of Victoria's power was postponed for another day today on a technical matter. The arbitration commission is expected tomorrow to consider the claim by power workers for a pay rise.

Robert Hawke, the trade leader, said that he was hopeful that the workers' return on Monday would bring a confrontation and legal implications.

A possibility of a December election was enhanced today by release of figures showing the increase in inflation in the past quarter was only 2.1 per cent—the lowest since 1972.

Phillip Lynch, the Labor leader, said that the annual inflation rate was now only 9 per cent which proved that the government's economic policy was working. But Mr. Lynch, the Labor spokesman, claimed that the rate was 13.1 per cent.

## Jail sentence for pamphlet attack on Jews

Auckland, Oct 20.—An Auckland court today sentenced Mr. Darwood Colin King-Ansell, the National Socialist Party leader, to three months' jail for publishing pamphlets inciting ill will towards Jews.

Mr. King-Ansell, who is 31, pleaded not guilty to the charge under the Racial Relations Act. It was the first charge to be brought since the Act came into force in 1971.

Mr. W. J. Mitchell, the magistrate, said that there was no place in New Zealand society for the "sort of thing King-Ansell was doing". Counsel said that Mr. King-Ansell would claim rights under the Geneva Convention as a prisoner of war.—UPI

Heart pacemaker for newborn baby  
St Petersburg, Florida, Oct 20.—Doctors here have operated on a baby only two and a half hours after it was born, a pacemaker to its heart, it was announced today.—Agence France-Press

## Foreign Report

## Much has changed in the respective fortunes of the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany this year.

The pound has perked up, sterling reserves are reaching embarrassing dimensions. A balance of payments surplus looms.

The Federal Republic remains a model of economic rectitude and stability, but some of the tensions, caused perhaps by the creation of that economic miracle, have begun to surface again in ugly fashion. Britain's future looks more promising, and West Germany's less assured, than nine months ago.

Yet any display of Schadenfreude (pleasure at other's troubles) by Britons would be misplaced. Our fates are intertwined. Britain, it is generally agreed, has a unique chance—thanks to North Sea oil—to lay the foundation for a more stable economic future. The German example remains fascinating and in many ways instructive.

The basic reason why West Germany is so much more prosperous than Britain is simple: with only a slightly higher population it produces goods worth more than twice as much in the same time. Its statistical language, last year 56,000,000 Britons achieved a gross domestic product of \$215,000m, while 62,000,000 West Germans achieved a total gross product of \$453,300m. The similarity of the surface areas of the two countries helps to emphasize this discrepancy.

There are probably few Times readers who believe that more money leads automatically to greater happiness. There is, many Germans agree, much to be said for the more relaxed attitude to work and life in general to be found in Britain, contrasting as it does with what one fastidious British observer has called "the rather gross emphasis on production and crude consumption" in West Germany.

Nevertheless, crude consumption is precisely what many Britons would like to indulge in. And West Germany's income is a form of freedom, and one enjoyed by more Germans than Britons.

It is clear that since the two countries start off with roughly similar human resources, and since Britain enjoys greater natural resources (notably in reserves of coal, oil and natural gas), West Germany's success is a result of psychological, historical, political and institutional factors. The first two are linked, and include such well-known phenomena as collective determination to rebuild the country destroyed by war, the influx of 10,000,000 German refugees from the east, and the subsequent steady flow of some 3,600,000 East Germans—many highly skilled—into West Germany; a national fear of inflation left by experiences before the second world war; a yearning for stability and a rejection of social barriers resulting from this melting pot atmosphere.

This article is not an attempt to assess these factors or the creation of the economic miracle under the guidance of Dr. Adenauer and his successors. It is rather an attempt to look at some of the institutional arrangements in Britain and West Germany which may have tended to promote the relative economic weakness of the one and the prosperity of the other.

One myth about perhaps the most successful of the Western economies is that West Germany greatly benefited from the destruction and dismantling of industrial plant by the Allies during and after the war. As a German economist pointed out on that basis, the industrialized regions of Poland would be the most efficiently equipped in Europe.

Another myth is that the western occupying powers invented all the more enlightened aspects of the new republic. In fact, industrial reconstruction and the social security system had their roots in the 1920s, or even earlier.

This survey is inevitably superficial and incomplete. Even so, it does, I believe, suggest that although it is we Britons who have the reputation for compromise, the fields of economics, industry and international relations which promote compromise and cooperation. It is nowadays a truism that British arrangements have led to too much confrontation. The contribution of West Germany's institutional arrangements to a climate of cooperation is less widely appreciated.

## Parliament

The Bundestag's method of processing legislation places heavy emphasis on discussion by expert committee members behind closed doors usually closed to the public. Less democratic than the House of Commons, but in many ways more constructive.

After initial consideration, where relevant, by the Bundestag or Upper House, representing the interests of the Länder or member states of the federation, draft legislation goes to the Bundestag for presentation by the government in a largely formal first reading.

Then it goes upstairs to one or more of the 20-odd standing committees. There is roughly one of these for each ministry. Their membership remains constant during the lifetime of each parliament, the resulting expertise being used to keep an informed eye on each ministry.

The committee works on the draft Bill, makes changes, and tries to reach a common text. The committee's rapporteur presents the revised Bill to the house and explains any modifications with minority rapporteur often explaining diverging views. A second reading follows, with clause by clause discussion of amendments, and votes on them and the final text. At Westminster, after a first formal

## Are the West Germans really so much better off than we are?

Roger Berthoud examines the myths and the facts

presentation of the Bill by its sponsor (normally the government, sometimes a private member) it comes back to the House for a second reading. This is the big, set-piece debate on the principles and general propositions surrounding the Bill. Only thereafter does the Bill go into the committee stage. Where important constitutional Bills or parliamentary finance Bills are concerned, the committee is the Commons as a whole (hence "committee of the whole"). Otherwise it is one of the misleadingly named "standing" committees, whose membership changes for each Bill.

The danger is that each party will have become locked into rigid positions during the second reading. The committee's deliberations are open to the public, but civil servants cannot be questioned: the exact reverse of Bonn practice.

Next the Bill is presented as amended, and other members can propose additional amendments. Then the Lords have their chance to make amendments, which must be considered by the Commons, after the third reading.

On the issue, there are also select committees, which are more like continental committees and have considerable powers to interrogate experts. But they do not consider Bills.

The British system is superficially more democratic, though second readings are not invariably heavily attended. The German system promotes consideration by experts of the objective merits of legislation, at the risk of losing sight of the political context. The German system is much less opaque than Whitehall.

## Federal structure

There is, I suspect, a feeling in Britain that West Germany's prosperity is in some way linked to its federal structure. But Germans find it hard to put their finger on any specific connection. The shape of the 10 Länder created by the Allies is arbitrary. Federalism has roots deep in German history. The four main centres of industry—Hamburg, the Ruhr, Stuttgart and Munich—would almost certainly have flourished regardless of the governmental structure.

More significant than the existence and powers of the Länder (plus West Berlin) has been the absence of a powerful attractive federal capital. Bonn repels rather than attracts the sort of talent which London has drawn. Bonn is not a city. It is a collection of small towns and villages, each with its own character and its own history.

The actual legislative role of each Land is modest, being confined to cultural matters (including education) police and local government, and even in these spheres the Länder are under pressure to co-ordinate their policies. In other spheres, legislation is passed in Bonn for implementation and administration by the Länder. Income tax and corporation tax receipts are split equally between the federal government and the Länder.

Their real power is in their ability to affect legislation in Bonn through the Bundestag, in which sit delegates of the Land governments. Legislation affecting the interests of the Länder is brought before the Bundestag by the Bundestag, and is obliged to take account of the views of the upper tier. Thus the governments of the Länder, of which a fair number will always be of a different political complexion to the government of the Bund, are a constant presence in Bundestag affairs.

This is particularly important since the Bundestag enjoys considerable independence, including control of the money supply, and of the amount of funds which other banks have to deposit with the Bundesbank. The Bundestag is a powerful body, and its powers are a considerable restraint on a federal government anxious to take short-term monetary measures which might jeopardize the country's treasured economic stability.

The Bundesbank also reflects the country's federal structure. It has a two-tier board, whose first tier or council is composed of the Presidents of the Land banks. The second tier, consisting of the president, vice-president and appointed by the federal government, and is obliged to take account of the views of the upper tier. Thus the governments of the Länder, of which a fair number will always be of a different political complexion to the government of the Bund, are a constant presence in Bundestag affairs.

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## Industrial relations

Two of the main sources of the prosperity of West Germany are well-known in the United Kingdom: the post-war reorganization of a historically splintered trade union movement into 16 industry-wide trade unions (there are still 13 unions affiliated to the TUC in Britain); and a graduated system of worker participation on the supervisory boards of all companies with more than 500 workers.

Of far greater importance, in the view of many Germans, than codetermination is the works council (Betriebsrat).

Under the Works Constitution Act of 1972, any firm in non-state industry must have a works council elected every three years in a secret ballot by all employees, regardless of trade union membership. Its members cannot be sacked while holding office, and are provided with appropriate offices and secretaries.

The aim was to promote trust between workers and employers. In practice, works councils virtually eliminated strikes at shop floor level and have become the pillar of workers' rights.

They have an equal say with management in all personnel matters, including: piece rates, wages structures, working hours, holiday schedules, redundancy plans, workers' conduct and welfare schemes. Hiring, firing, promotion, transfers and reorganizations require their advance consent. Dismissals without such consultation were void in law. Conflicts are taken to labour courts.

workers, an economic committee is entitled to information on all important matters, such as manufacturing methods, production programmes, and the company's financial situation.

Codetermination (Mitbestimmung) in West Germany means that in companies with between 500 and 2,000 employees, workers are entitled to a third of the seats on the supervisory board, which is responsible for important policy decisions and appoints the management board. In larger firms, workers now have equal representation with shareholders, as they have long had in the coal and steel industry. The new law ensures the shareholders prevail in the event of a deadlock.

Apart from their presence in company boardrooms, West German trade unionists move in the world of big business in their own right. The Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, 75 per cent union-owned, ranks sixth among non-state-owned banks, gives the labour movement a strong insight into the affairs of big business, and has provided powerful backing to some enterprises, like mail order firms.

German workers do not believe in slaughtering the cow they are hoping to milk. Wildcat strikes are not unknown, but in general the strike weapon is seen as a last resort, and strict rules are laid down in the trade unions' statutes. Not only must any strike be approved by the union's executive council, but at least 75 per cent of all its members must previously have voted for industrial action in a secret ballot.

In taking a decision, the union executive must take into account the business situation of the firm concerned, the general economic situation, and the public's welfare. A strike must be directed solely against the employer. Strikes in sympathy or political strikes are not allowed. Intimidation by pickets and threats against third parties would render an otherwise lawful strike illegal.

In Britain there are no works councils to remove the cause of strikes (because they would make shop stewards redundant) and virtually none of the same constraints on strike action.

Perhaps it was a German banker in London who best summed up the difference between the British and the United Kingdom. "When I see British employers and workers together on TV here, I can always tell them apart. In Germany, no such distinction would be obvious."

It remains to be seen how long the harmonious nature of West Germany's industrial relations will survive in a period of high unemployment and reduced growth. But so far the post-war atmosphere of co-operation reinforced by these institutional arrangements has prevailed, to the benefit of both management and labour.

## The financial system

To English eyes, the most striking aspect of the West German set-up is the dominance of the banks, in particular the Big Three—the Deutsche, Dresdner and Commerzbanken—and of the local savings banks (Kreissparkassen) and giro institutions.

There are some 800 Kreissparkassen with an estimated 15,000 branches. They are mainly owned by the municipalities on a non-profit-making basis, and are closely involved in local industry.

They act as a sort of post office savings bank, building society, local bank and finance corporation rolled into one, and become inextricably tied up with the well-being of the community. Like so much in West Germany, this is conducive to long-term co-operation. But the failure of such a linchpin institution could drag many people down with it.

Being substantially collectors of savings deposits, the Kreissparkassen are able to channel some of their surplus funds into the money market through the Landestreuhand, to which they answer. A "cascade" effect is thus created, with funds going upward into the Big Three banks, into larger companies, or into local government bonds.

In Britain many of the old local banks have been absorbed by the Big Four (National Westminster, Barclays, Lloyds and the Midland). The resulting centralization, although tempered in some cases by the creation of regional head offices, produces a vastly less intimate relationship between banks and the local community; and British banks cannot compete with building societies and life insurance companies for savings, owing to the tax concessions enjoyed by the latter.

Whereas the big British banks do not take equity stock in quoted industrial companies, in West Germany the banks' average about 8 per cent of total assets.

The position of West German banks is further strengthened by their management of investment portfolios on behalf of private and institutional clients (instead of stock brokers). The clients generally transfer voting rights to the bank concerned. Bank representatives sit on the supervisory boards of industrial companies not just as representatives of their customer shareholders.

It is not hard to see that this sort of involvement in a company's affairs is likely to have a strong effect on the company's policy. Social and technological factors are likely to receive greater emphasis than the risk-reward ratio for investors, as Peter Reinhardt has pointed out in his lively study *The European Money Puzzle*. The British system focuses interest on the share market, where short-term performance looms large, while the German system is more likely to give greater weight to shop-floor and long-term considerations.

West British institutional investors like insurance companies and unit trusts generally avoiding involvement in management has been free from harassment by investors with a long-term interest in the company's well-being. As for the Big Four British banks, they say that the

## Some comparative data

|  | FRG              | UK                                  |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Population (1975)  | 81,991,000       | (1976) 56,002,000                   |
| Area (sq km)   | 248,533          | 244,035                             |
| Electorate (1976)  | 42,048,015       | (1977) 40,959,805                   |
| GNP (1976) (OECD figs)   | \$453,300m       | \$215,000m                          |
| No of doctors (approx) (1974)                                    | 114,000 (active) | (1976) 79,000 (inc ret'd)           |
| Dwellings existing in 1975                                       | 23,621,000       | 19,625,000                          |
| Owner-occupied (1970) (EEC figs)                                 | 34%              | 51%                                 |
| Defence expenditure as proportion of GNP (1976)                  | 4.2%             | 5.1%                                |
| Total military personnel in armed forces (1977) (inc conscripts) | 489,000          | 339,150                             |
| Estimated military expenditure (Nato definition) 1977            | \$16,802m        | \$11,214m                           |
| Car production 1976  | 3,547,000        | 1,333,449                           |
| Cars in use (1975)   | 16,517,740       | (1976) 14,029,000 (excl. N Ireland) |
| Killed on road 1974  | 14,614           | 6,876                               |

## Extent of unionization

|   | FRG | UK  |
|---|-----|-----|
| 40%   | 50% |     |
| Working days lost through industrial disputes per 1,000 employees |     |     |
| 1980  | 2   | 138 |
| 1955  | 2   | 122 |
| 1970  | 4   | 469 |
| 1975  | 3   | 265 |

## Inflation rates

|      | FRG  | UK   |
|------|------|------|
| 1987 | 1.6% | 4.5% |
| 1968 | 1.6  | 5.4  |
| 1969 | 1.9  | 6.0  |
| 1970 | 3.4  | 9.9  |
| 1971 | 5.3  | 6.1  |
| 1972 | 5.5  | 9.4  |
| 1973 | 8.9  | 16.0 |
| 1974 | 7.0  | 25.0 |
| 1975 | 6.0  | 15.4 |
| 1976 | 4.5  | 17.1 |

money of depositors is repayable on demand, and prefer on grounds of prudence to put surplus funds into easily realizable and safe assets like government securities.

## Size of enterprise and of plant

Nobody has yet established a clear link between national prosperity and the number of small firms. But it is not disputed that West Germany has far more small businesses than the United Kingdom. At the other end of the scale, enterprises in the Federal Republic tend to have larger plants than their United Kingdom equivalents where this produces genuine economies of scale.

In *The Small Business in Britain and Germany*, a study by Mr Graham Bannock published by the Anglo-German Foundation last year, statistics are cited suggesting that in 1963 West Germany had some 366,000 manufacturing firms employing fewer than 10 people, against 31,000 in the United Kingdom. Comparisons are difficult, but he thought that over the complete range, there might be 40 per cent more small business in West Germany than in the United Kingdom, though this has certainly dropped since the post-1973 squeeze.

Mr Bannock's two case studies might have been chosen to prove that, in the United Kingdom, concentration is bad for efficiency and the consumer. In brewing, German output was 50 per cent higher than in the United Kingdom, though the Federal Republic had more than 10 times as many breweries (1,700 against 160). In baking, there were about 43,000 bakeries, against fewer than 6,000 in the United Kingdom.

He sees the British tax system as a big factor in the decline of the small business in the United Kingdom, a view shared by the Confederation of British Industry. In West Germany, the top tax rate on income is 56 per cent, with no distinction between investment and earned income. Taking into account the 15 per cent surcharge in investment income, the United Kingdom rate rises to 98 per cent.

The dearth of really large plants in the British car, chemical and steel industries probably owes a good deal to the impact on investors of the patchy record in industrial relations in the motor vehicle and steel sectors. According to Professor Sigmund Freud, the British car industry is a case study in the evolution of the giant firms in Britain, half of all employment in West Germany's motor vehicle industry is in plants employing more than 12,000 people, in the United States more than 15,000, in the United Kingdom more than 6,500.

In West Germany, the three largest plants employ an average of 30,000 people. In Britain, the average at Halewood, Longbridge and Cowley is 20,000. Plant also tends to be smaller in the British machine tool industry.

The parliamentary system makes for a dull Bundestag, but one where ordinary politics are to some extent replaced by the calmer assessment of expert MPs every bit as knowledgeable as civil servants, and perhaps more mindful than British MPs of the objective merits and defects of proposed legislation.

In industrial relations there is a strong awareness that high and profitable output is in the interests of management and labour alike. The participation not only of workers but of management in the management of a greater emphasis on human and technical considerations, as against a stock exchange oriented concept of "performance". Social policy is considered to be the pacemaker of economic and industrial progress. A highly trained workforce, motivated by highly motivated workers—and, periodically, by the revaluing of the D-Mark—help to boost the Federal Republic's constantly rising productivity.

Partly because so much in German life works towards consensus and cooperation, there seems to be a general desire to reduce social gaps. As a correspondent in Bonn from 1969 to early 1972, and on subsequent visits, I was struck by the pervasive German desire to upgrade one's job.

In Britain, what one London-based German called the "peasants' revolt" attitude persists. The attitude of trade union leaders to industrial codetermination seems to be based on the fear of losing the distinction between "them" and "us". The polarization of the two main parties seems to spring from a similar source.

One of the paradoxes of Britain is that it combines so much futile class warfare with so much deep-seated tolerance. It would probably be rash to say that Germans work harder. But their institutional arrangements, coupled with their national history and character, appear to make them work more willingly. At the end of the day, they get a larger slice of a larger national cake, but are not necessarily the happier for eating it.

It is logical to believe that if a worker knows he will receive an adequate pension, he will work more confidently and be more prepared to accept change. Comparisons are difficult, not least because contributions must be taken into account.

Broadly speaking, West Germany's state pension scheme gives a pension amounting to 60 per cent of final salary after 40 years' service, with a contribution of 9 per cent each from employer and employee. Since 1957, pensions have been "dynamicized", i.e. pegged to general increases in wages. Widows receive six-tenths of their husband's pension. Since 1973, men have been able to choose when to retire between the ages of 63 and 65.

In Britain, there has been a minimum flat rate of "old age" pension,

which has tended to amount to only 20 per cent of average weekly earnings. On top of this there are occupation or company schemes of varying generosity (some give two-thirds), covering proportionately more salary than wage earners.

From next April a new state scheme is being phased in here to supplement the flat rate pension, which remains. The new scheme provides a second (contributory) state pension for all employed persons, with the possibility of contracting out if occupational schemes meet certain criteria.

## Education and training

Connoisseurs of British and German education (like Dr Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics) generally commend the UK system for its less hierarchical, less competitive approach, giving a broader education and more supervision. This applies to all three main levels.

Where West Germany scores is in vocational training for school leavers.











Bernard Levin

# Eating out of the master's hand at a table for gourmet weight-watchers

I see that Tito, on his recent visit to France, not only stayed for three days at the hotel of M Michel Guérard, creator of the *Cuisine Minceur*, but sked-addled without paying his bill. Swindling hotel proprietors is exactly the kind of thing I would expect of the stout rogue, and I hope Interpol is searching for him assiduously at this very moment. But I have a particular reason for feeling vicariously indignant at this shameless bilking, for during the summer I stayed a week myself in M Guérard's beautiful and inviting establishment at Eugénie-les-Bains, following the *minceur* regime with the utmost strictness (well, not quite utmost, for to the injunction "Pas de pain, pas de vin", intoned in plainsong over the menu at the very first meal, I replied firmly "Pas de pain, mais un peu de vin", and so it was throughout the seven days), and had so astonishing and agreeable an experience that I now count myself a lifelong member of the Friends of Les Fric d'Eugénie.

Now no chef can provide meals thrice daily for a week without making it clear beyond argument, to those for whom he is cooking, of what mettle he is made. And Michel Guérard made it clear to me that he is made of that rare mettle which provides the stuff for the very greatest chefs of France, and for them alone. Probably the two greatest of the present day are Bocuse at Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or, and Haefliger at Illhaesern, and their greatness lies in the fact that to the unwavering perfection which is the hallmark of, say, Pêre Bise at Tulloires, they add the truly creative vision of the artist. Well, a week eating from Michel Guérard's hand has convinced me that he can be ranked with these; and Paul Bocuse himself has declared that "Michel is the greatest of us all".

First, the ground-rules. It is no use eating *minceur* at just one meal and expecting to be able to judge it properly, let alone to half a hundredweight from round your waist. Indeed, you cannot eat it for just one meal, as it is served only to residents, passers-by having to content themselves with the *cuisine gourmande* (you must surely know enough by now to know also that I ate from the fatteries' menu



M Guérard (left): joining the ranks of masters such as Carême (above right) and Escoffier.



for the last dinner of my week's stay, convincing myself as I did so that Guérard's culinary genius is by no means confined to his service to the overweight. Second, there is a *table-hôte* with no choice at all (though at a place like Guérard's, that is obviously not literally true, and indeed with every presentation of the menu with its three fixed courses there was a solicitous inquiry as to whether it was acceptable, with the clear understanding that a replacement would be provided for anything deemed not to be). Third, the *cuisine* is in the old spa meaning of the word, and beneath the hotel there are vast catacombs in which the participant is

immersed in baths, sprayed with jets of water, cooked in saunas, and persuaded to drink daily from the Pierian spring. (My own feeling about such shenanigans has always been that they come under the heading of harmless nonsense, and although I went daily through the routines, I remained of my former opinion. But of course the treatments are all optional anyway.)

Now we fall to. To start with, there is no possible question that Guérard has succeeded in his principal endeavour, which was to make non-fattening food not merely palatable but delicious. He really has applied to *haute cuisine* the theoretical principles he developed while he was working on his creation,

and the result is that I know no restaurant in France or anywhere else that could not add to its *minceur* dishes to the full confidence that diners altogether uninterested in losing weight would attack them with the full relish that I have brought over the years to Pêre Bise's *l'estrégone* or the *quenelles* André Terrail at the *Tour d'Argent*. Such dishes as Guérard's leg of lamb cooked in hay, morris with poached vegetables, crab and grapefruit salad, dry-roasted breast of goose, *velouté* of wood mushrooms, and banana en papillote are masterpieces from the hand of a master *cuisinier*, and no allowances whatever have to be made.

On the contrary, Michel Guérard has added a new dimension to cooking—and before you belabour me with my colleague Philip Howard, I insist that I am using the word, for once, correctly, in that this remarkable chef has extended cooking in a new and hitherto unimaginable direction. I think I can best sum up the effect of the *minceur* by saying that every dish has the effect of a sorbet, so pure, fine and freshening to the palate are the tastes, and so astoundingly distinguishable are all the tastes in a dish that provides more than one.

Take that breast of goose, for instance. Of course, every scrap of fat is pared from it, and of course it is served unsauced;

even so, goose is a very fat bird, and in every previous incarnation in which it has been endeavored to be healthy and unsuited. (None the worse for that, of course, eaten, say, in the bleak midwinter.) Guérard's version is delicate, piquant, full of *arrière-goût* and with no hint of heaviness. And this is the quality of everything he cooks; I would go so far as to say that someone introduced to the finest French cooking from the *minceur* at Eugénie might never feel the need to seek any other cuisine.

I am always taken aback, whenever I write about the food I have enjoyed, by the volume of priggish resentment such columns seem to arouse. Sometimes it takes the form of what might be called the *Private Eye* syndrome, a giggling nervousness at the enjoyment not only of food but of anything whatever (music, and indeed all the arts, being particularly delectable in such eyes). And sometimes it comes as that particularly repellent form of priggishness which professes horror at the fact that a man should eat well while others hardly eat at all. (That, at any rate, *Private Eye* is free from.) But there is a separate category of such bastard puritanism which merely objects to the expression of pleasure derived from eating good food and drinking fine wine, and running through it I seem to sense an alarming hostility to the enjoyment of something which is, in some form, essential for everybody. This attitude, a kind of coarse Maoism, does not even seem to be based on the envy of those able to afford to pay the high price of such culinary pleasure, but to be entirely self-contained. I find it very nasty; but it occurs to me that Michel Guérard's *Cuisine Minceur* might well be just the thing to keep those critics almost as happy as my week of it made me, for if it is a luxuriousness of food that disturbs their psyche, I can assure them that the spare, clean quality of the food at Eugénie constitutes the very antithesis of gourmandizing, and (unless they are going to argue that certainly would) that food should always be nasty—as indeed all slimming food always was until Guérard came along—they might find it difficult to keep up their hostility when they are actually eating it. Bon appetit!

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## How the Grunwick dispute has opened old trade union wounds

The Grunwick dispute has revived legal and political dissent over issues that the trade unions hoped had been removed from the arena of public controversy by the new labour legislation. Laws placed on the statute book since the repeal of the 1971 Industrial Relations Act—the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974, and its sibling, the amendment Act of 1976, together with the 1975 Employment Protection Act—more or less satisfied the TUC that the right legislative climate had been created for the conduct of industrial relations.

But the 14-month long strike at the North London film processing laboratory, its attendant legal actions and mass picketing have shattered that (always slightly unreal) sense that an acceptable legal framework for the conduct of trade union activity had not been found.

A thoughtful and provocative new book (*Grunwick*, Penguin Special, 30p) by Joe Rogaly, a staff columnist with the *Financial Times*, puts the dispute in its legal context and argues the case for a novel "constitutional settlement" that would set down in detail the legitimate boundaries for organized labour. Trade unions should accept the discipline of law, he insists, adding: "Most people, including most trade unionists, have shown through opinion polls that they support this view. Some government, perhaps in the not too distant future, will have to grasp this nettle again, and extend the law to delineate the ground-rules of trade union behaviour."

But wait, have we not been here before? Yes indeed; abhorrently in 1969, with *In Place of Strife*, and with catastrophic results in 1970-74. Mr Rogaly admits that people will say it is impossible to legislate to put the unions in their place, because they will not accept it. This, he finds, is the fatal defect in modern British society—that because the strongest extra-legal force will not accept the same obligations to general rules as all other sections of society, the adverse consequences must simply be accepted, with a shrug of the shoulders.

The new ground rules should provide for trade union recognition where the workers show by ballot that they want it. The rights and obligations of employers and those who choose not to join unions would also be codified, and rules affecting the treatment of individual members by the unions to which they belong. Such a set of laws would be a tremendous change in British practice; some people might argue that it would not be possible to make them work unless there was a new constitutional settlement. Is this too much to ask for?

Is it? The whole tenor of the TUC's approach today is to plug the loopholes exposed by the Grunwick experience rather than to concede that the pendulum of power has swung too far in the direction of the unions. At last month's Trades Union Congress, the voice of deep concern at "recent anti-union decisions by courts", in particular the decision of the Court of Appeal in the Grunwick dispute which had "undermined completely" the recognition provisions (section 11) of the Employment Protection Act. The TUC general council was instructed to campaign for amendments to Acts passed by the Labour Government "to ensure that decisions by courts do not nullify progressive legislation."

A resolution was also adopted there, and more the Labour Party conference, recalling the legal restraints placed on Post Office workers following their blacking of Grunwick mail in 1976, and the South African week of protest this year. It sought the TUC general council to demand the 1953 Post Office Act and the 1963 Tele-



The bus that has become the centre-piece of the Grunwick dispute.

graph Act to give Post Office employees the right to strike. The Government shows every sign of willingness to implement this change in the law. This is evidently not a social ground in which to sow the seeds of an exercise in rewriting the constitution to take account of the shift in the balance of power between the nation's institutions. The unions have won their position of institutionalized power chiefly through a genuine growth in their representative strength. But some rather unorthodox measures—like mass picketing—have contributed to it, as has the steady adherence to social movement a more attractive political environment, than Parliament for up-and-coming figures such as Mr Arthur Scargill.

Mr Rogaly touches on the fundamental social divide that motivates so many trade union leaders. "Social and economic divisions between the classes remain, and it is on the basis of these that trade union and business leaders argue. It is here that the class conflict can turn rough. Once certain trade union sensibilities were touched, the need to defend Grunwick and its allies became almost overpowering, just as those who opposed the strike unions believed that a defeat for the company would be a defeat for British democracy. This rising in the blood of a class instinct can only be understood as a matter of emotion; there is not a grain of reason in the Grunwick story."

That some lack of reason lies at the heart of the unions' ambivalence over the new Trade Union leaders have an instinctive mistrust of the courts, and that like legislative intervention in industrial relations. At the same time, they want legal safeguards to buttress their freedom to organize and bargain collectively. The Grunwick strike has shown up this contradiction in their view of life, but only with the effect of confirming it.

Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Some of the facts in Mr Hamilton's article on London's secret Chinese Trade, published on September 27, were taken from the book *Trials of Death: The Inside Story of the Trials*, by Frank Robinson, published by Routledge & Kegan Paul on that date, price £3.95.

## Now big business makes its weight felt for peaceful change in South Africa

The latest wave of bannings, arrests and closures of institutions must almost fill with despair those who believe that it is still worthwhile to listen to the voices of South Africa which call for peaceful change. But we should not forget that such voices exist: one of the loudest belongs to organized business.

Lately, in the confusion induced by the current recession, South Africa's rulers have been paying close attention, difficult though that is to reconcile with the events of the last few days. The changes sought by business (and to some extent the state corporations) are radical in South African terms, though nothing like enough to take the heat off at the United Nations, and now, perhaps, not enough for the City of London.

They are demanding such reforms as equal pay for equal work; the removal of all job reservation; raising schemes for black artisans, and permission to train them outside the nomadlands; improved education for blacks; freehold tenure in the townships and some solution of the "problem" of urban blacks who have no attachment to a homeland. Though these demands are

presented as matters of strictly economic necessity, businessmen are aware that they must have social and political consequences. Meanwhile they do not press for such fundamental changes as the abolition of residential segregation or separate education; there is no direct attempt to erase the grand design of separate development.

Pressure is exerted through a plethora of interest groups at national, provincial and local level. At national level there are three, of which the largest is Assocom (the Association of Chambers of Commerce) which campaigns vigorously, has an "English" image and is seen by government as rather loud and abrasive.

The Federation of Chambers of Industry (FCI), though representing largely English-speaking interests, has moved to Pretoria in order to lobby efficiently and has a staff who are all, bar one, Afrikaners. They have good access to the Civil Service, partly because their research backing is excellent, so that they have something to give the bureaucracy. Finally, the Afrikaanse Handels Instituut (AHI) is smaller than the others and does less

research, but has superb access to the Afrikaner establishment.

Some of this pressure stems from moral conviction, but the majority of businessmen seek to remove discrimination for two reasons: because without black skilled and semi-skilled workers capitalism (whether private or state-controlled) in South Africa cannot work; and, secondly, because commerce, industry and government are desperately anxious to reassure foreign investors.

Increasingly the demand for labour is shifting away from the unskilled to skilled and semi-skilled. Clearly, a white population of four million cannot supply the needs of a total population of 25 million and in 1981 the figures will be an estimated 4.83 million whites and 24.90 black, coloured and Asian. Thus job reservation must go, even if this involves retraining for unskilled whites.

As for South Africa's capital needs, it is almost universally acknowledged that they cannot be met from retained profits, but that there is a continuing need for a steady inflow of new money from abroad, both for private business and state corporations. In 1974-75 the flow of capital was R2,780m, 80

per cent of it long term. Now short term funds are leaving the country, in part illicitly, at about R100 million a month.

In so far as South Africa's troubles are economic they have been ruthlessly taken in hand, with all hopes pinned on a gradual export-led recovery. But foreigners' hesitations are at least as much political as economic. There are four main areas of doubt: first, the political situation in southern Africa as a whole; secondly, the state of affairs in South Africa itself; thirdly, fears that the United States' policy may be to strangle South Africa; fourthly, but to a smaller extent, representations by church groups, students and shareholders opposed to investment in South Africa have had an effect.

The main doubt is naturally about South Africa's internal policies and the important responses have recently been made by both business and government. The Urban Foundation was founded last December and is a body of major significance because it brings together black and white capitalists of many shades of political opinion, and from both the English and

Afrikaans language groups, to press Government for change. At the same time the government believes it can work with the foundation, without appearing to give way to extraneous or illegitimate pressure.

The government itself has set up two commissions. The first, chaired by Professor Wiehahn, is to study a range of laws affecting the labour supply and, it is hoped, will report in January, 1978. (How, the commission's composition suggests that a unanimous report will be very difficult to achieve.) The second commission, to consider an even wider range of laws, has been given to Dr Riekert, economic adviser to the prime minister. He sits as sole commissioner and is expected to report within a year.

It is generally thought in South Africa that both commissions will call for wide-ranging reforms and that the government, probably in cooperation with the Urban Foundation, will act on their recommendations. The question, however, is whether any reforms within the system will satisfy world opinion.

Most white South Africans would reply that nothing they

are prepared to do will satisfy world opinion and that there is little point in trying. Investors' reactions are more problematic: on the one hand they are more interested in stability than in one-man, one-vote. On the other, they must take some notice of their own government's views and actions because these affect confidence and therefore stability. Governments, too, are well aware of how strong a weapon capital flight is, and how attractive by comparison with, for example, United Nations sanctions.

Furthermore, South Africa's political scene is constantly changing. Mr Vorster's decision to call an election, the agreement by the Council of Ministers in Brussels on a code of conduct for firms, Steve Biko's death, and above all the latest security moves, will all in their different ways, affect investor decisions. It does not seem likely that any large one will be taken until Mr Vorster has won his election.

Christopher R. Hill

The author is Director of the Centre for Southern African Studies, University of York.  
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## THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

### Twelve in the pink for another season

The hunting season opens on November 1, which is good news for hounds free-range huns, hunt saboteurs and bad news for foxes: unless you adhere to the extraneous notion that they enjoy being chivvied around the countryside.

Accordingly, the Masters of Foxhounds Association, the governing body of the sport of Princesses, came to London for its annual meeting yesterday. The committee consists of 12 MFFs elected on a regional system. Seen as a pack they are jovial, big red-faced men paraded untidily into their dark London suits. They meet to discuss topics of hunting interest such as the incidence of VAT, what to do if rabbits comes, new bylaws that insist that dogs must be leashed, and the eternal Jorjacks question of who has calloped off with whose wife.

Ashford Vale swapped horror stories about hunt boundaries with Enfield Chase, and Cotswold discussed the foxhounds' stud book with Dartmoor. They also witter about their public image, and the townies who get their sport from hunting buntmens.

Captain Rennie Wallace (Heathrop for 25 years, now Exmoor, the Hugo Meynell of the modern English chase): "I



do not believe that the British public thinks it incredibly clever for these people to drive cars at horses, slash saddles, and vandalise graves." Puckeridge: "The fox hunts huns. The hounds hunt the fox. We follow the hounds. The saboteurs try to follow us. The police hunt the saboteurs. Journalists follow the police. Life is a merry-go-round." There are about 200 hunts, not counting a few pirate packs in Wales. More than a million people have something to do with hunting in the season.

### Another type of beverage report

One gleams odd facts from Select Committee reports: the latest, from the Lords Committee on EEC alcohol regulations, is an example.

Pernod, a favourite aperitif among the French, is made, according to the Scotch Whisky Association, by a committee, from "artificially expensive alcohol". The French, therefore, levy a "surcharge de compensation" on Scotch so that Pernod can compete on a more equal footing.

A somewhat similar situation exists in Germany in regard to korn, say the Scotch producers. "In Italy, competition between Scotch and Italian brandy is 'adjusted' by a tariff which includes a differential according to the raw material used. Cereal spirits are taxed much more heavily than grape spirits."

If these forms of national protection were removed "the present basis of competition between noble spirits such as Scotch and Cognac, and those spirituous beverages which are produced from agricultural alcohol and fruit-based wines, such as French Armagnac and Italian brandy, will be substantially changed."

Mr Carvies is the caretaker of a school in Hendon, north-west London.

### Nearly all the fun of the fair

A visit to the old Motor Show at Earls Court always had me grinding my teeth in rage at the sight of the gleaming monsters, outrageously priced, which would never see the inside of my garage. The show, as befits the Trendy Seventies, has now become Motorfair, but the effect on my molars is the same.

Having abandoned all thought of making a purchase, I looked elsewhere for amusement during a trip to the fair yesterday. What the official guide book modestly calls an "incredible masterpiece—a mock Monte Carlo misanthrope of piazza and cabaret buildings"—did not detain me longer than it took to try to work out how on earth they could have spent £1 million on it.

### Upside down

The Institute of Contemporary Arts in the Mall, a favourite lunch-time resort of peers, senior civil servants, MPs and even (before he got the job) our man in Washington, is running a three-week course of lunchtime yoga demonstrations. Visitors have a chance of seeing eminent politicians standing on their heads, literally for once, especially on Mondays or Wednesdays when everyone is asked to come "suitably dressed for lying on the floor."

### Falling stars: stellar gap for top brass

Let me disabuse you of the idea that it is only the film industry that has seen the decline of the star system. No longer what it used to be in the military field, either.

Five-star men, the field-marshal and his equivalents, the other services, approach the autumn of their lives on the pay. Let the cost of living go as it will, their pensions are pegged. But then, knock off a bit and come down to the general. Their pensions are index-linked. A five-star demand for parity is on its way to the Treasury.

### Divorces

More than five and a half million people have visited the railway museum in York since it opened two years ago. It is the next best thing to watching the trains go by.

### Titles of organizations are sometimes deliberately framed so that the initials themselves form a word. The result can be unfortunate. Think, for example, of what it is like to belong to the Standing Committee of Unit Managers.

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### Upside down

The festive spirit was abroad both inside and outside London National Theatre on the South Bank last night. Inside, the audience (including me) rocked with laughter at *Peppercorn* farce *The Lady from Maxim's*. Outside, on the plaza, lights blazed on a Christmas tree, choir boys sang carols and Santa Claus dispensed chubby-cheeked bonhomie. It was not, as I feared, an earlier-than-usual start to the capital's commercialization of Christmas, but an Italian film unit shooting a scene for a movie called *The Last Christmas Night*.

The rich aromatic, bittersweet chunks of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade, have made the British breakfast a matter of envy the world over. Ever since Mrs Cooper filled the first jars in 1874, the men of Oxford have spread its fame in the tropics, the New World as far as the Antarctic and Everest itself.

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## ELECTORAL RELAXATION

Last night the Chancellor indicated the general principles that will govern his announcement of further economic measures on Wednesday. He did so against the background of the latest figures for the growth of money supply. These show that the strong combined influence of monetary policy in the direction of reducing inflationary expectations over the last year is in danger of becoming prematurely relaxed.

It is surprising that the policy document prepared by the Confederation of British Industry for its first national conference next month, which was also published yesterday, should positively encourage such increased laxity on the Government. For all the stress that it rightly lays on the continuing danger of inflation and the need not to reduce the priority given to this aspect of policy, the CBI in fact advocates, as does the TUC, monetary policies that, in the name of short-term and questionable effects on employment, would put at risk the whole of the slow progress towards stability over the past eighteen months.

Last night (as will be the case on Wednesday) the Chancellor was trying to talk to two audiences at once. To those who put the highest priority on taking steps to stimulate the economy and reduce the rate of increase in unemployment in the short term he was indicating that the Government were prepared now (and again in the future) to inject substantial demand into the economy. To those who are concerned that financial integrity should be maintained and international confidence in the pound and the British economy undisturbed he

was saying that the measures being taken would not increase inflationary pressures. The political reasons why a government in the present electoral situation should be talking in these terms is clear enough. But the intellectual consistency of the policy can be tested by the following question. If Mr Healey were the Chancellor of a Labour government that had just been elected with a working majority for a full five year term, would he have made the same speech last night, or would he be proposing the same economic package on Wednesday?

Few can doubt that the answer would be no. A government with a full five year term would want to see inflationary expectations much further reduced before it ran the risk of further artificial stimulus of the economy. It would argue that the increasing strength of the balance of trade, because of oil, over the next two years, together with the possibilities for the reduction of the overall level of direct taxation once substantial amounts of oil revenue become available from 1980 should be allowed to produce real growth in the context of declining rates of price increases. It would argue that all of this should not be put at risk by a combination of short-term policies which will have the effect of reversing the downward trend of inflation. It is, therefore, clear that the Government's short-term policy is dominated by electoral considerations and not by economic considerations. In this it is positively encouraged by the CBI, which in effect calls on the Government not to place too much reliance on monetary

policy and to devalue the pound in order to offset the consequences of a looser monetary policy.

The Government cannot shelter behind the fact that the International Monetary Fund is happy with its declared policies. The plain fact is that the IMF for perfectly good institutional reasons is concerned almost exclusively with a country's balance of payments. Provided a country is not in deficit (or in chronic surplus), the IMF has less concern about other aspects of its domestic economic policy. The Government, however, must face the problem and the reality of inflation.

That reality is that in the first part of this year a firm domestic monetary posture has been undermined by an inward flood of foreign currency. The domestic element of credit expansion has scarcely increased at all this year, largely because the Government has been forced to sell its debt to absorb foreign inflows. These inflows, however, still threaten to destabilize the Government's monetary policy. It can be no answer to these financial problems to say that the Government deficit should be further increased and the pound allowed to float downwards. The only possible policy that affords the prospect of a continued gradual return to stability is one which is based on a combination of three elements: a continued policy of keeping interest rates at levels which discourage speculative inflows and encourage domestic investment; the selective relaxation of outward exchange controls; and a readiness to allow the pound's exchange rate to move upwards, if international market forces are still tending in that direction.

## A DECLARATION OF WAR ON SOCIETY

West Germany's terrorist problem now has at least three aspects. There is the immediate task of trying to prevent further attacks. This will make for a tense and difficult period, particularly for the police and for anyone considered a likely target. Secondly there is the international aspect, which is partly linked. Dr Schleyer's body was found in France, and he may well have been held there some time. If so the terrorists must have a circle of supporters there on whom they can rely. Clearly they also have supporters in other neighbouring countries, as is shown by the attacks on German property and representation. Therefore the search for the terrorists will have to be a European or even wider operation demanding a great deal of cooperation among governments and police forces. This could bring political problems in countries where there is a lot of hostility towards Germany, such as France and Italy. All political parties should see, however, that it is ultimately in everyone's interests to stamp out terrorism as quickly as possible. This can only be done through cooperation. To let the issue into the French election campaign, for instance, or into German politics, would be highly irresponsible.

The third aspect is West Germany's own internal political and social debate. According to the highly respected Senator Peter Glotz of Berlin, about one in every five of West Germany's students probably feels some degree of secret sympathy with the ideas of the terrorists. In a recent interview he talked of a whole subculture of alienated students who are largely closing themselves off from public debate and the main sources of public information. They provide a breeding ground for the new generation of terrorists who are more ruthless and better organized than those who have had most of the public attention until now. He is worried that the

present wave of public feeling, and the pressure for disciplinary action by the universities against students of this type, will drive them into even deeper hostility when many could be redeemed through dialogue and understanding. Most do not support terrorism, he says, but they are in conflict with their background and their state, feel hate for its representatives, and long for an emotional home.

The emergence of this generation reduces hope that terrorism represents only the fading fall-out from the student movements of 1968. The new generation of rebels must have deeper roots. Since Japan is the other main producer of terrorists of this type commentators have sought answers either in the experience which both countries have had of military defeat or in the success of both countries in rapid industrial growth. Certainly the war affected the student generation of 1968 because their parents shared responsibility for the Nazi period and often had difficulty explaining it. But if the war influences the present generation of students it must do so much more indirectly, perhaps simply by making it more difficult for them to feel a sense of historical patriotism towards their state.

If industrial success breeds gloomier the implications are gloomier still. A West German commentator wrote recently that his country was becoming steadily colder and less friendly in its private and family life. Young people had insufficient contact with feeling. Tolerance of opposing views was diminishing. The ruthless shooting down of Dr Schleyer's driver and guards, he wrote, was the mirror image of a society lacking warmth and sympathy in its everyday life.

Such diagnoses are easy to make, difficult to sustain, and liable to elide from explanation to excuse, but they have some value. It is certainly true that the 1968 generation was driven

into much greater hostility by the nervous over-reaction of the police and wide sections of the population and the press. There was the beginnings of a reconciliation under the chancellorship of Herr Brandt, but somehow it was not completed. The more fanatic breakaway groups on the left pressed on and provoked a reaction which led to the somewhat clumsy attempts to keep radicals out of the public service. The elaborate screening process alienated still more intellectuals, academics and students. Then came the oil crisis, the increase in graduate unemployment, and the fall of Herr Brandt. Now polarization is increasing again as the right wing makes sweeping denunciations of intellectuals, writers, and others whom it blames for encouraging the terrorists.

This is a worrying phenomenon because it threatens to exacerbate political and social tension and swell the ranks of the secret supporters of terrorism. The problem is not easy. Any attempt to understand the terrorists can so quickly look like an attempt to excuse them. A state in the position in which West Germany now finds itself is bound to begin pulling in the frontiers of tolerance. Open debate cannot easily be combined with stringent security operations.

Yet there is a strong suspicion that some politicians on the right are exploiting the issue to discredit the left as a whole although most of the left is as bitterly opposed as they are to the terrorists. This is irresponsible because it leads towards doing the terrorists' work for them by making the state more like what they say it is already. In so far as the terrorists have any political purpose it is to create a confrontation and expose the alleged repressive nature of the state. It is important that while the state is humbling them down it should also try to demonstrate that they are wrong.

The certificate is sent to the respondent at the address he has given for the purpose on his acknowledgment of service or at any later stage. If he has not done so, the certificate is sent to him at his last known address. If it fails to reach him it is, in the fault of the system.

The Special Procedure for undefended divorce, the "divorce by post", has made no difference at all to these arrangements. Whether or not one likes the new procedure (and most people definitely do), secrecy is not one of its defects. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR B. S. WEIR, Hon Secretary, London Solicitors Litigation Association, 5 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

### Combating submarines

From Professor Bryan Rant  
Sir, Mr Patrick Beesly's letter (October 17) is absolutely right in stating that failure to appreciate both the offensive and defensive capabilities of the convoy system very nearly brought defeat to Britain and her allies in the two World Wars. It would therefore be highly dangerous for contemporary naval policy makers to disregard this experience in working out the best methods to meet the much more dangerous threat of today's nuclear aircraft.

The increased threat comes not only from their endurance and speed but also from the consider-

### A Birmingham 'heretic'

From Dr J. C. G. Binfield  
Sir, A propos the headline to your leading article about Dr Montefiore and the Birmingham bishopric (October 12), you fail, perhaps, to exploit all its ironies. No doubt Joe Chamberlain would not have approved of such an appointment; but then he was a Unitarian, a "heresy" of which Dr Montefiore is innocent. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, J. C. G. BINFIELD, 22 Whitely Wood Road, Sheffield.

## How much do we pay the police?

From Lord Aylestone, CH

Sir, Everyone must share my admiration for a body of men and women who serve the community with a devotion which becomes more conspicuous as society becomes more violent; and many will therefore have been surprised and puzzled as I was to see the Police Federation's advertisement headed "One Way to Earn £40 a Week". It may be of some help therefore for me to point out what, I believe, upon inquiry, to be an objective account of the relevant figures.

The basic salary of a police constable when he is appointed is about £2,500 a year. It rises to over £3,000 after four years' service, up to a maximum of over £3,500. In addition there are various allowances—mainly for housing. Most police officers get an allowance in lieu of being provided with housing—and in London this can amount to £20 a week or more, tax free; others do not receive a rent allowance because they live rent and rate free in police housing.

The police do of course receive overtime pay; and when officers are required to put in long hours and to give up their rest days for demonstrations, they are paid extra. Including overtime and allowances the average constable of a police constable is about £85 a week. Yours faithfully, AYLESTONE, House of Lords, October 20.

### Future energy sources

From Professor F. J. Weinberg

Sir, The recent correspondence in your columns is unanimous at least in regards leaving no stone unturned in the search for the small stones that appear to be turned most frequently. Mr Grainger (Letters, October 11) already pointed out that perhaps 50 per cent more useful energy could be provided from coal by conversion processes. However, it is well known that considerable improvements are possible in other combustion based processes. What makes this such a worthy consideration is that combustion of fossil fuels accounted for 95 per cent of the total consumption in 1975 and is still expected to provide 82 per cent in AD 2000, according to Professor Feil's estimates (Business letters, September 8).

It is instructive to rearrange Professor Feil's data in this light. In 1975 the total consumption of 320 (all units in million tons of coal equivalent) was broken up as follows: Combustion of fossil fuels 307; nuclear 11; alternatives (hydroelectric) 2. His predictions for AD 2000 are: combustion of fossil fuels 385; nuclear 50; alternatives 35; total 470. This is a 46 per cent increase. Professor Feil's calculations at a 2 per cent growth rate, which exceeds the entire postulated nuclear contribution could be met by conservation and I showed (Business letters, September 12) what splendid results could be achieved by a little judicious growth rate. However, let us suppose, for the sake of the following comparison, that this shortfall must really be met from one of the three sources. The alternatives then are:

- (a) to double the proposed five-fold nuclear increase, or
- (b) to postulate a forty-five-fold increase in alternatives, instead of the seventeen-fold one, or
- (c) to improve the output from the combustion of fossil fuels by just 14 per cent.

Perhaps the only comment worth adding is that the more efficient conversion methods also tend to be less polluting.

Yours faithfully, FELIX WEINBERG, Professor of Combustion Physics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, Prince Consort Road, SW7, October 14.

### Health Service cuts

From Mr John Pilger

Sir, I refer to the letter in *The Times* of September 19 from F. M. Camberlege, Chairman of the City and East London Area Health Authority, in which he comments on Kenneth Eastaugh's preview of my ITV programme about Health Service cuts.

Mr Camberlege's argument is not with me, it is with the doctors. The senior consultant anaesthetist at Hackney, Dr Frederick Lancaster, said on my programme that under no circumstances would he allow his family to put up with the conditions that exist at the Hackney maternity unit, called the Mothers' Hospital. Referring to these conditions, Dr Lancaster said: "This is an extremely dangerous position for a mother and baby, which might well lead to foetal death." Dr Lancaster went on to say that in forty years as an anaesthetist, he had never felt as he would lose a mother or baby, except at the Mothers' Hospital.

Mr Camberlege's attempts to discredit this authoritative and carefully considered criticism is further undermined by a letter I have received from the consultant obstetricians at Hackney Hospital. They write, "It was against all medical advice that the various health authorities supported by certain local politicians and members of the Community Health Council decided to transfer all maternity services to the isolated Mothers' Hospital which, as has been pointed out, lacks almost every support service which is necessary to maintain the modern standards that we were able to give at Hackney Hospital until January, 1977."

It was Mr Camberlege's Authority which threatened Associated Television with a court injunction to stop transmission of my programme while it was being made. The people of Hackney, and the dedicated staff of both the Hackney and Mothers' Hospitals, deserve better. Yours sincerely, JOHN PILGER, *Daily Mirror*, Holborn Circus, ECL.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Putting a stop to hijacking

From Mr Robert Dercel Evans

Sir, If the war against terrorism is to be permanently won, West Germany's fine rescue operation in Mogadishu must be followed by more than international cooperation on airport and travel security, firmer laws in withholding blackmail and appeals to the United Nations.

Here European leaders have lagged behind those of South America, where the phenomenon of political terrorism first made its appearance nearly a decade ago in Brazil. In his *Minimatum of the Urban Guerrilla* Carlos Marighella pointed out that the terrorist groups had been active for a year before the authorities realised that the bank holdups and kidnapping for ransom were to raise funds for revolutionary activities. Only after millions had been raised for terrorist operations, and when the kidnapping of ambassadors was to be resorted to in exchange for political prisoners, did the Government move into effective action.

As a result the terrorist groups were suppressed within three years, and the survivors moved to Uruguay to join the Tupamaros. When that country became too hot they sought safe haven in Allende's Chile only to be forced to cross the Andes to Argentina after the military coup, and finally across the Atlantic after the military regime of President Videla started adopting the ruthless methods which had proved successful with his neighbours.

The sustained campaigns of denigration of these countries of Latin America's southern cone are among the consequences of the clean up of the terrorist gangs which forced the survivors to seek refuge in the more benevolent climate of Europe where their declared aims and their actions reveal no more constructive and rational aims or democratic motivations than in the countries where they fomented anarchist revolutions based on the teachings of Marighella.

South American leaders learnt the hard way that there is no negotiating with terrorists. As Dr Connor Cruise O'Brien said in his Cyril Foster Lecture in Oxford a few months ago, Chancellor Schmidt's mildness did not protect him from criticism and he too may now prefer to be "unloved" for firmness than for surrender to ransom demands as he copes with a wave of protest demonstrations triggered off by the suicide of the Bader-Meinhof prisoners.

So far there is no evidence that there is any alternative to firmness, even ruthlessness, in dealing with political terrorism, the only really new political phenomenon to appear in the world this century and for which there is no historical precedent. Pursued and practised by warped minds there can be no other effective response.

With the growing institutional structures, greater resources and efficient intelligence and security organisations, Western European countries are better placed to deal with the problem without recourse to the kind of methods which the Latin Americans were forced to use for the lack of them. In their desperate plight the latter had few alternatives to using methods unacceptable in Europe. Internationally they have received little credit for the success they have achieved by methods that themselves lamented. But the vast majority of the people of Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina are far from unhappy over the eventual results, lamenting only that their predicaments have been so little understood, and received at best only a little sympathy from the Europeans. Yours faithfully, R. D. EVANS, 15 Somerset Road, SW19, October 19.

### Tory education plans

From Dr W. E. D. Stephens

Sir, The letter from Mr St John Stevas (October 12) well illustrates the saying: "What we learn from history is that we do not learn from history." We have had "assigned places" before. Until 1945 we had exactly the two levels system which he is now proposing to establish. The reasons which caused the wartime Government of Sir Winston Churchill to abolish fees in secondary schools (except in those few schools which, largely by historical accident, had continued to be grant aided by central government instead of by local education authorities) are obvious. Once fees were abolished, the problem of selecting pupils for the old grammar schools, now called grammar schools, became acute.

Those who, like myself, were active in the administration of education at that time will remember the early optimism with which we expected the scientific measurement of children's intelligence to enable us to select pupils, confidently and accurately, not only for grammar schools but also for technical schools. For some years we felt able to assure the parents of children who had "failed the eleven plus" that our tests were infallible and that the child's IQ was an accurate measure of his potential ability.

The mounting evidence that this was not so led us then to increase the number of grammar schools, thinking that if we had places in such schools for 25 or 30 per cent

### Trouble at the opera

From Dame Veronica Wedgwood, OM, FBA

Sir, Silence seems to have descended on the strange happening at the Royal Opera House. The first night of Verdi's *Don Carlos*, attended by the critics, went well, even extremely well. But subsequent audiences have had to accept a severely cut and scrambled version of this noble opera, with a magnificent cast of singers and the incomparable Visconti production. Why cut? Why scramble? Apparently because the Musicians' Union has decreed that the performance must be confined within three hours.

Is it not a shame to their profession and an insult to the composer and to the singers that the fine musicians of the Royal Opera Orchestra should be pressured into taking such action? The boos which greeted the orchestra from all parts of the house on their return after the single short interval were ugly to hear but surely an understandable reaction from an audience which had paid very high prices for what should and would have been a superb complete performance.

How long is this situation to last and will not Mr Levin draw his sword? Yours faithfully, C. V. WEDGWOOD, Whitgate, Alcliff, East Sussex, October 19.

### Enigma disclosures

From Mr P. F. G. Twinn

Sir, May I comment on Professor Vincent's letter of October 14? With the deaths of Dillyn Knox, Professor A. M. Turing and F. A. Kendrick, I think I am the only live British cryptographer to have worked on the Enigma machine and before and during the war. May I say that the principles of this machine were fully comprehended by me and my colleagues before the war, for no other reason than that we possessed a simple commercial version of the machine.

The wartime problem was, first, to reconstruct the particular internal connections used by the Germans and, secondly, to reduce the daily settings. The principles of the machine were never in doubt. Yours sincerely, P. F. G. TWINN, 13 Vicarage Hill, Farnham, Surrey, October 18.

### Unravelling Elgar?

From Mr Kenneth Cleveland

Sir, With the disclosure of the Enigma documents, may we at long last hope for a definitive answer to terminate this speculative correspondence about Elgar? I read before and during the war, May I say that the principles of this machine were fully comprehended by me and my colleagues before the war, for no other reason than that we possessed a simple commercial version of the machine.

The wartime problem was, first, to reconstruct the particular internal connections used by the Germans and, secondly, to reduce the daily settings. The principles of the machine were never in doubt. Yours sincerely, P. F. G. TWINN, 13 Vicarage Hill, Farnham, Surrey, October 18.

### Arts Council post

From Mr Geoffrey Grigson

Sir, Let us suppose that "Literature" in the name of the "Literature Panel" of the Arts Council has its usual meaning (which would not include, for instance, hard-indexed biographies or boudoir fiction) and that the Literature Panel dutifully and hopefully sifts around for signs of that desirable thing, which it will then encourage. On that supposition are we not liable to have more confidence in a chairman whose discerning power—on television, with others—has so often been displayed to us all as mediocre? Or worse? *Tei arbra, tei arbra.*

Oughtn't the Arts Council to have its Literature Panel chaired, constructed, too, as irreproachably as possible on literary grounds—even if Sainte-Beuve or Matthew Arnold is not available? And is it impossible that a discerning chairman should also be good at chairing? In short, why not complement literature in this matter by being, for once, serious and grown-up about it? Especially when writing standards are low (as they usually are). Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY GRIGSON, Broad Town Farmhouse, Broad Town, Swindon, Wiltshire.

### Rolling back frontiers

From Mr William Hague

Sir, It has amazed and dismayed me to note that Mrs Winawer (October 16) is incapable of understanding the phrase "roll back the frontiers of the state" which I used at the Conservative Party Conference. To extend the metaphor, the state has extended its borders in the sense that in recent years it has made areas of the economy and the individual's life into its terrain which it had previously left untouched. It is in that sense that we should roll back the frontiers of the state and I hope that this explanation is of some aid to Mrs Winawer. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM HAGUE, Cortworth Cottage, Cortworth Lane, Wentworth, Rotherham, Yorkshire.

### Jubilee illuminations

From Mr Robert Howie

Sir, After the record spending there this summer, and to mark the end of Jubilee year, can we look forward to the restoration of Christmas illuminations in the West End?

Yours faithfully, ROBERT HOWIE, Stream Farm, Horam, Heathfield, East Sussex.

### Year of the mouse

From Captain A. G. Denaro

Sir, It has been an excellent "mouse year" on the Continent as well (I refer to Sir Graham Cunningham's letter October 13). Just prior to an important visit we had last week I pulled my uniform out to smarten it up, only to find that

a large hole had been nibbled through the epaulette and into the lining. On examining three other suits I discovered that they, too, had been devoured.

After lengthy discussions in the mess we came to the conclusion that it was the horse hair in the shoulders of the suits that the mice wanted for their nests. Further weight was added to this argument when a nest of mice was discovered in some horse rugs in the boot of an officer's car.

The mouse trap has proved more successful than the extremely keen "bobby" mess pack of dogs, but not effective enough a deterrent as my amused but unappetising insurance company insist upon. Yours faithfully, A. G. DENARO, Adjutant Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, R-144 Forces Post Office 16, Smeelager, October 17.







## ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

## THEATRES

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## EXHIBITIONS

**SCULPTURED PORTRAITS**  
of the very famous, including New  
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# CBI says income tax bill could be cut by a third in four years

By Malcolm Brown

The amount taken in income tax could be cut by nearly a third by 1981 if the Government held public expenditure to its present level.

This is one of the main themes of a policy document published yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry. The document, *Britain Means Business 1977*, which will form the basis for the confederation's first national conference in Brighton next month, calls for an important series of reforms. Recommendations range from a complete restructuring of the pay bargaining system through tax reforms to a consensus approach to rewriting parts of industrial relations law. The CBI calls for caution over early stimulation of the economy.

Its leaders will now have to prepare a considered view on next Wednesday's mini-Budget before the delegates arrive in Brighton on November 13.

One of the targets identified by the confederation is the creation of a million new jobs. To meet this it would be necessary to reach a yearly growth of 4 per cent in gross domestic product between now and 1981, a goal described as "optimistic but not unrealistic".

Such a growth rate combined with a holding of public expenditure to present levels—which would effectively reduce spending

from 44 per cent of GDP to some 38 per cent—would allow the Government to cut taxes by £5,000m by 1981 without any increase in indirect taxation.

The CBI's list of tax cuts would include a reduction of the standard rate of income tax from 34 per cent to 28 per cent—saving about £2,700m—improved reliefs for those on lower incomes (£1,500m), a cutting back on high marginal tax rates (£850m), lowering the rate of investment income surcharge and raising its thresholds (£150m) and cuts in capital and corporation tax (£800m).

Emphasis on income tax is particularly damaging to incentives and efficiency, the document says.

"These excessive levels of personal taxation based on people at every level of income, from the highest to those below social security levels. They penalize thrift and discourage investment. They are a major barrier to the improvement of productivity."

"Combined with penal capital taxes, they pose particularly severe problems for smaller firms, stifling their growth and even threatening their existence."

Large cuts in direct taxes are essential. They are, the CBI says, the only way to stimulate productivity and growth.

The confederation argues that the constant level of public expenditure which would be necessary if the economy were to develop in the way it suggests would still allow for improvements in the standard of services provided by the public sector, where efficiency could be raised.

But the priority must be to restrain total public expenditure. "If spending is not held down the proposed cuts outlined earlier will be jeopardized and with them the benefits from improved incentives."

A strong note of caution is sounded on North Sea oil revenues.

"North Sea oil will do little more than compensate for our loss of real national income resulting from the quadrupling of oil prices a few years ago."

"It will certainly not allow us to live comfortably and trouble free for the next 10 years. But if we use it sensibly it can help to stop things becoming worse and it can give us a breathing space during which we can rebuild and consolidate our position in the EEC."

Lord Watkinson, president of the CBI, and Mr John Methven, director general, said yesterday that they thought there would be controversy over some of the issues to be discussed in Brighton. This view which is borne out by scrutiny of some of the resolutions down for discussion which range from calls for a tough law and order campaign to such delicate issues as the closed shop.

Mr Methven believed there might be considerable worry expressed over whether industry was moving towards participation in a corporate state.

The confederation's call for a reform of pay bargaining may lead to this sort of criticism from the floor. The CBI wants radical changes including the setting up of some form of national machinery for defining what the country can afford, synchronization of pay settlements within a shorter pay round linked to the Budget, and fewer bargaining units.

Another area which is likely to prove controversial is the reform of industrial relations law. The CBI document is critical of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and wants employees to have the right to decide whether or not to join a trade union.

But while seeking reform, the CBI says that the way to achieve this must be to reach agreement between employers, unions and government on practical industrial solutions to what are really industrial, and not party political, problems.

# Alfred Herbert warning on labour cutback and return to losses

By Edward Townsend

Alfred Herbert, the machine tool group wholly-owned by the National Enterprise Board, is back in a long-making position and, it said yesterday, may have to declare up to 450 workers redundant at its main Coventry plant.

The company, badly affected by the recession in the world machine tool industry, has notified the Department of Employment under the 90-day "early warning" procedure of the redundancies.

Discussions have started with trade union officials to minimize the numbers involved and consider alternatives such as short-time working.

Up to a quarter of the work force at the company's Edgwick plant in Coventry could be affected by the cut back. The factory produces the standard range of Herbert lathes and compound and numerically controlled machine tools.

Herbert, once the flag ship of the British machine tool industry, was rescued in 1975 with a Government cash injection of £2m. Last year it made a profit before tax, interest and exceptional items, of £1.46m against an equivalent loss of £5.71m for the previous 14 months.

In the first half of this year the company's operating profit of £436,000, but Mr David Davies, the finance director, disclosed yesterday that this would be wiped out by losses in the second half.

"Our financial position is not serious. What we are doing is preparing to take action to ensure that it does not become serious," he said.

The losses were being caused by the low level of orders on home and export fronts, he said. The company had consumed a £1m stockpile grant from the Government, and although that could be increased "it would be robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Last month, Sir John Buckley, chairman of Herbert, gave warning that adjustments in the productive resources of the company would be essential unless there was a marked upturn in demand in the near future.

He added that the group had no intention of seeking financial aid from the NEB and Mr Davies confirmed they would not be approaching the NEB "to finance our losses".

The next 12 months were likely to be as difficult as the last year, he said, and the group was now preparing a strategic plan which would require a "very substantial" sum for future capital investment.

Herbert is facing intense competition from domestic and



Sir John Buckley: Productive adjustments essential.

# Closure threat to 'efficient' steel plant

Plans by the British Steel Corporation to rationalize production at two foundries in south Wales which supply the ingot moulds for the major steelworks of the region are causing consternation.

Up to 200 jobs could be threatened by the impending decision which some workers believe could lead to the closing or reshaping of what they claim to be the most efficient of the two foundries while building up the other, less efficient plant.

The result, they claim, could be an additional cost of £2.5m a year on moulds supplied to the Llanwern complex.

Recommendations for the rationalization of the foundry operations at Dowlais and Llanwern were submitted by a divisional management to a top-level committee headed by Mr Bob Scholey, the BSC's chief executive. A decision is thought to be imminent.

Workers at Llanwern claim that their plant will be the one that will suffer, despite its claims to better equipment and product quality, and at best will be converted into a small general castings foundry, with a loss of 200 jobs.

With a fine sense of timing—the BSC is grappling with excessive losses of around £200m for the first six months of this year—members of the Llanwern Staff Pressure Group claimed yesterday that if all the moulds required for the south Wales works were produced at their plant it could save up to £2m a year.

In a statement yesterday, the pressure group noted that a delegation from Bethlehem Steel Corporation in the United States recently visited the Llanwern plant to study the melting process. "When they heard the BSC was planning to discontinue using the Dowlais plant in favour of Dowlais, they could not believe it and thought the BSC were 'burnt'."

According to the group, the BSC's own reports show that extensive expansion would be required at Dowlais to bring that plant's quality up to that of the Llanwern facility. The group said that the Llanwern plant was the only one in the world which could produce the quality of steel required, BSC executives said there would be no capital expenditure. "We believe that as soon as Llanwern foundry has been established then the expenditure will proceed."

The group claimed that not so long ago the corporation was suggesting that £3m would have to be spent at Dowlais to renew the works' melting plant yet the BSC now claims that there will be no capital expenditure.

Letters outlining the case, supported by detailed evidence, have been despatched to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, the corporation's chairman, and Opposition leaders. But last night the corporation would not comment on the issue. An official at its divisions headquarters at Sheffield would say only that a report had been sent to the chief executives' committee due to meet this week.

# Third-quarter rally in consumer spending

By Our Economics Staff

Consumer spending picked up in the third quarter of this year, but it is still below the level of a year ago.

A rise of 14 per cent in total consumer expenditure in the three months to September was shown in official figures published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

This confirms the picture from the latest retail sales figures that people are beginning to spend again after the sharp drop in the first half of the year. The rise in overall spending was not as great as in the last three months of the year, but it was a welcome increase in that of retail sales alone.

Officials feel that the upturn in consumption is partly due to the tax cuts announced in July and partly, perhaps, to a drop in the proportion of income which is saved and therefore before tax did not grow much in July and August (September figures are not yet available).

Tax rebates, which came into use in August and September, boosted spending power, they were equivalent to a 4 per cent annual rate increase in gross pay for a single person in average earnings.

Although yesterday's figures show a clear indication that some recovery is under way, further handouts to make sure that continues are still thought desirable. These will be continued in Mr Healey's economic measures next week.

The sluggish trend in industrial output, the continuing rise in unemployment, and the spreaded state of industrial investment are thought to be ample justification for the measures.

Without some stimulatory

# Sharp rise in money supply 'not a failure'

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent

The sharp rise in the money supply in the banking month to mid-September "carries no implication of failure to meet our targets for the year", Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, said at last night's Lord Mayor's Dinner.

But he added that "the situation gives no grounds for complacency; rather it emphasizes the need for a sharp weather eye on present and possible future developments and the exercise of wise judgment."

The figures themselves show that in the five weeks to September 21, sterling M3, the broad-based definition of money supply, rose by 2.2 per cent. This brings the accumulated rate of growth in the first five months of the present financial year up to the top end of the Government's 9-13 per cent full year growth target.

Although there are obvious dangers in reaching too much importance to a single set of figures—the August figures, by contrast, had unexpectedly shown no growth at all—financial markets will be bound to feel that the Government may now be close to a point where it could be forced to relax its money supply targets or its exchange rate policy.

Crucial in all this is the quantity of money flowing into the country across the exchanges. These were responsible for almost the whole of the £18m increase in (seasonally adjusted) sterling M3 last month.

The hope is that the recent fall in British short-term interest rates and a stabilization in the position of the dollar will lead to a drop in some of these inflows. If this does not happen, however, the authorities could find themselves in an extremely difficult situation if the public sector continues to require money supply growth rates to expand over the second half of the year.

Also of some concern is the very sharp rise in M1, the narrow definition of money supply, which excludes time deposits. This grew by nearly 41 per cent last month. Over the first five months of the year it has now expanded at an annualized rate of nearly 25 per cent.

# Erratic day for the dollar

Erratic and uncertain trading characterized the foreign exchange markets yesterday as the dollar moved up and down repeatedly before closing little changed on Wednesday's levels.

The pound fell to \$1.7665 at one point but picked up to end the day at \$1.7705—down 32 points from its overnight level. The effective rate index was unchanged throughout the day at 62.5. Dealers believed that the Bank of England intervened in both directions during the day.

The Japanese yen and German mark closed slightly stronger against the dollar than on Wednesday. The mark finished 15 points up at DM2.7715, and the yen 40 points higher at 253.8 yen.

Dealers are unable to make up their minds where the dollar should settle. Yesterday's statement by Mr Michael Blumenthal, the American Treasury Secretary, that a further depreciation would not help to close the trade gap sent the rate soaring.

The market then had second thoughts on the grounds that a continuing American trade deficit would exert a steady downward pressure on the dollar in the foreseeable future.

News that the rate of growth of GNP in the United States slowed considerably during the third quarter had a mixed effect on the market.

The slowdown to an annual rate of 3.8 per cent from the 7.5 per cent and 6.2 per cent in the first two quarters of the year was widely expected.

The growth rate in the first half of the year was felt to be unsustainable, and a major contributing factor of the worsening in the trade and current account balances.

There was an increase in the savings rate to 5.5 per cent in the third quarter and a slowdown in the gap-based measure of inflation.

This was running at an annual rate of 5.1 per cent during the three months to September, compared with rates of 5.3 and 7.1 in the first two quarters.

Some dealers believe the Japanese, Swiss and Germans have agreed with the United States on particular rates for the dollar which they are willing to support. This has been denied.

The Swiss franc closed 30 points weaker against the dollar at SwF2.259.

# Northern Engineering launches £9m bid

By Bryan Appleyard

Northern Engineering Industries, the group formed by the merger of Clarke Chapman and Reynolds Parsons, has launched a £9.4m share and cash bid for International Combustion (Holdings).

Northern is the backing of the United States company Combustion Engineering, which holds 45 per cent of ICH, but the board, headed by Sir Monty Finniston, the former chairman of British Steel, was informed only yesterday and is considering the offer, having told shareholders to take no action.

The United Kingdom boiler-making operations of ICH were taken over by Clarke Chapman in 1974 in a share deal worth £6.82m. This left operations in South Africa, India and India and cash at home, some of which has since been used on a number of acquisitions.

These have taken the group into pneumatic and hydraulic control valves, castings and marine equipment, but it failed in a bid for Thermo Syndicate, the fused silica specialists.

As a result, group profits had climbed back to £1.8m last year after slumping to £477,000 the year after the CC sale. At the interim stage this year pre-tax profits had just passed the £1m mark.

The terms of the NEI offer are seven shares plus £3.35 cash for every 10 shares in ICH. Last night's closing price for NEI of 95p, down 3p on the day, puts a value of 101p on each ICH share against a price before the bid of 80p. ICH shares rose 16p after the announcement.

If the takeover were successful, Combustion Engineering's stake in NEI would increase from 6.5 per cent to 10 per cent. Its NEI stake resulted from its 13.5 per cent holding in Clarke Chapman which, in turn, arose from the sale of ICH's British interests.

Mr Ronnie Baker, the finance director of NEI, said the aim of the bid was to develop the international operations of the group by bringing together the overseas activities of the companies.

He said the link with CE would also help internationally through licensing agreements.

Mr Baker said decisions would be made about the individual ICH operations after the deal, and he added that NEI was "not averse" to the £3m plus cash in ICH.

Financial Editor, page 21

**Continuing efforts to expand exports**

Mr Stanley L. Spangh, O.B.E., Chairman

Main points from the Chairman's Statement for the year ended March 31, 1977:

- \* Last year, I indicated that, whilst business conditions were far from healthy, I believed Neepsend would do better in the second half and achieve a result which shareholders would not consider unsatisfactory. In the event, I consider we achieved this and although profits fell compared with the previous year, yet in a period of severe recession, it is a tribute to everyone employed by Neepsend that these results have been attained.
- \* Your directors are determined to ensure the future profitability of your Company by continuing investments in viable projects. In this respect we have invested in new plant during the past financial year in band saw production; in the new Rotabroach project; in the expansion of Clinidine production of D.I.Y. tooling; in spring manufacture; in the production facilities at Fuhmhill Ltd., as well as the installation of forging manipulators. We are continuing our efforts to increase our export sales in many markets.
- \* Your Company is therefore well placed to take advantage of the upturn in the economy which should take place if and when world trade improves and provided the necessary actions are taken by Government. Given these conditions, I am confident that your Company will be able to produce results in the coming year which will be satisfactory.

**neepsend**

100% British  
100% Export  
100% Quality

**How the markets moved**

The Times index: 216.67 -0.17  
The FT index: 516.9 -1.7

**Rises**

|               |            |                 |            |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Brit Sugar    | 10p to 47p | Martling Inds   | 1p to 20p  |
| Com Ek Aust   | 10p to 22p | Nat of Aust     | 1p to 23p  |
| Dunlop Int    | 10p to 13p | Peko Walsford   | 10p to 43p |
| Ferruzzi Minn | 10p to 51p | Roydon Corp     | 11p to 83p |
| Int Comb      | 46p to 96p | Sand-Son Murray | 5p to 35p  |
| Inv Trs Corp  | 10p to 20p | Tang Cons       | 8p to 13p  |
| K Super       | 5p to 47p  | Thurgen Barcks  | 1p to 12p  |

**Falls**

|               |             |               |            |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Barclays Bank | 8p to 31p   | MTD (Nangula) | 7p to 53p  |
| Beecham       | 10p to 54p  | SA Land       | 7p to 75p  |
| De Beers Ltd  | 14p to 23p  | UC Invest     | 20p to 20p |
| Grovetree     | 11p to 109p | Union Corp    | 17p to 27p |
| Libanon       | 46p to 48p  | Vestestrop    | 23p to 22p |
| Marlboro Con  | 51p to 97p  | Western Areas | 25p to 15p |
| Middle West   | 15p to 25p  | Winkelbank    | 28p to 62p |

**Equities stayed firm.**  
Gold edged securities were mixed.  
Dollar premium 85.5 per cent (effective rate 31.58 per cent).  
Sterling dropped 32 points to 1.7705. The effective exchange rate index was unchanged at 62.5.

**Gold fell \$1.5 an ounce to \$159.875.**  
SDB-S was 1.17084 on Thursday, while SDB-E was 0.662315.  
Commodities: Renter's index was at 1485.2 (previous 1483.0).  
Reports, pages 23 and 24

**THE POUND**

|                 | Bank    | Bank    |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                 | buys    | sells   |
| Australia S     | 1.63    | 1.58    |
| Austria Sch     | 30.25   | 28.25   |
| Belgium Fr      | 64.77   | 61.75   |
| Canada          | 1.77    | 1.76    |
| Denmark Kr      | 11.15   | 10.75   |
| Finland Mk      | 7.51    | 7.26    |
| France Fr       | 8.84    | 8.52    |
| Germany Dm      | 3.29    | 3.28    |
| Greece Dr       | 64.75   | 62.35   |
| Hongkong S      | 8.53    | 8.08    |
| Italy Lt        | 1596.00 | 1535.00 |
| Japan Yn        | 470.00  | 445.00  |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.50    | 4.28    |
| Norway Kr       | 10.94   | 9.68    |
| Portugal Esc    | 76.00   | 70.00   |
| S Africa Rd     | 1.76    | 1.64    |
| Spain Ptas      | 153.00  | 140.00  |
| Sweden          | 1.77    | 1.72    |
| Switzerland Fr  | 4.18    | 3.96    |
| US \$           | 1.81    | 1.76    |
| Yugoslavia Dnr  | 37.25   | 35.00   |

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International. Excludes rates for foreign currency bankers.

**On other pages**

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**DOWDING & MILLS LIMITED**

Summary of results year ended 30th June 1977

|                    | 1977       | 1976       |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Sales              | £9,499,267 | £7,544,274 |
| Profit before Tax  | £1,429,841 | £1,098,432 |
| Retained Profit    | £337,598   | £214,271   |
| Pence per share    |            |            |
| Net Assets         | 10.270     | 9.150      |
| Earnings after Tax | 2.190      | 1.790      |
| Net Dividends      | 1.075      | 0.963      |

The A.G.M. will be held at the Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham, at 12 noon, Friday, 18th November 1977.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, at the Registered Office, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0JJ.

Electrical and mechanical repair engineers.

**DOWDING & MILLS**

**Other pages**

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## Call to shelve 'white elephant' as output is seen as likely to depress prices further

# BSC ore plant worries scrap processors

Britain's scrap processors expressed fears yesterday of the effects of the British Steel Corporation's £50m investment in iron ore direct reduction plants in Scotland.

The scrap industry, which is suffering badly from the low demand for steel, which has been reflected in reduced purchases and regular cuts in the price at which the steelworks buy their scrap, fears that the bringing on stream of the direct reduction plant at Humberston, Yorkshire, will lead to further displacement of the scrap industry.

Directly reduced iron in pellet form is used as an alternative to scrap in electric arc furnaces. The new Scottish plant will produce 800,000 tonnes a year of pelletised iron.

Mr Jack Howard told the half-yearly meeting of the British Scrap Federation that the plant's output would be equivalent to importing 800,000 tonnes of scrap and could only depress the market further.

He suggested that the project could become yet another "BSC white elephant" and called for its shelving.

Earlier this year plans by a consortium of private sector steelmakers to establish a similar direct reduction plant on the North-East coast were dropped because of the poor market prospects. Steelmakers were influenced

in considering direct reduction plants by fears over possible future scrap shortages.

Earlier, Mr Eric Cross, president of the federation, said that the BSC was now being forced to reduce its levels of scrap stocks held at steelworks and that the scrap industry should expect that the corporation would be reducing its intake of scrap still further between now and next March.

He told the meeting that the industry had urged the BSC to introduce greater stability into its scrap buying price policy by allowing a longer period between price changes.

### September output up

Brussels Oct 20.—Total September crude steel production in the 29 countries belonging to the International Iron and Steel Institute totalled 36,331,000 tonnes, up 3.4 per cent from 34,780,000 tonnes in August, but down 4.6 per cent from 38,079,000 tons in September, 1976.

In the first nine months of 1977, crude steel output was 327,182,000 tonnes, down 2.7 per cent from 336,221,000 tonnes in the comparable 1976 period. The institute said this was mainly because of lower production in the EEC and the United States—down

5.4 per cent and 4.6 per cent respectively.

The September production rise was almost exclusively because of a 17 per cent climb in EEC output to 10,965,000 tonnes from 9,372,000 tonnes in August, but was still down 8.4 per cent from a year ago.

Nine-month production fell to 95,593,000 tonnes from 101,085,000 tonnes, according to the institute which accounts for about 65.4 per cent of world steel production.

United States production in September was 9,230,000 tonnes of crude steel against 9,427,000 tonnes in August and 9,492,000 in September, 1976. Nine-month production was 85,951,000 tonnes.

In Japan, September steel production was 4,408,000 tonnes, against 4,487,000 in August and 9,137,000 in September. Nine-month output was 77,420,000 tonnes, against 78,761,000 in 1976.

### Saar plant closure

Stahlwerke Röchling-Burbach, one of the West German steel companies operating in the Saar, plans to shut down part of its plant in Burbach in a move which will affect 3,500 of the group's workforce (Peter Norman writes from Bonn).

Although the company said yesterday that the closure of the fluid steel part of the plant would be temporary, it gave no indication as to when it might reopen. In the past temporary plant closures in the German steel industry have been strictly limited in time.

The company said it would have to dismiss some of the 3,500 workers affected, although it would try to limit the number of dismissals through increased short-time working, lowering the retirement age, and putting a ban on new hiring.

According to steel industry sources in Düsseldorf the measures being worked out at Röchling-Burbach are the most far-reaching response so far in Germany to the three-year-old crisis in the steel industry.

The German steel industry is at present running at only 50 per cent of capacity, and has been making heavy losses since the crisis began at the end of 1974.

But partly because of the system of parity coordination that applies in the industry, it has not as yet resorted to dismissing labour on a large scale. Röchling-Burbach, for example, employed 20,000 persons at the end of September compared with 22,300 at the end of the boom year of 1974.

## Engineering industry prospects 'gloomy'

By Edward Townsend

Short-term prospects for Britain's engineering industry remain "gloomy", according to the latest survey by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Unemployment is likely to rise in the coming months, the federation's quarterly digest of statistics says.

There have been considerable improvements in the economy in recent months but in real terms there are few signs of it in the engineering industry.

Orders are still depressed, according to the digest, and orders-on-hand indicate a very low level of capacity utilisation in coming months.

Numbers employed, far from rising, are likely to fall further as the industry seeks to raise its productivity.

The federation recommends that deflationary measures, at home and abroad, could alleviate the position.

But it stresses that deflation through direct tax cuts—"the most desirable method"—would take some months to improve demand for engineering goods, and even longer to raise employment.

It adds that containment of wage increases within the Government's guidelines, a steady reduction in inflation and a measure of sensible stimulation should result in an improving position in the new year.

The industry's problems are further reflected in latest figures from the Department of Industry, published in today's *Trade and Industry* magazine, showing that new home orders for the combined engineering industries fell by 8 per cent between April and July this year.

Home market sales fell by 3 per cent in the same period to a new low.

A sustained recovery in home engineering sales cannot be expected until new orders have picked up and orders-on-hand have begun to recover from their present low level.

The magazine states that in recent months the spread of home orders-on-hand has continued its long decline, falling by another 1.5 per cent during the three months to the end of July.

Export business has shown only a marginal improvement.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No complacency in the City about public ignorance of its role

From Sir Eric Faulkner

Sir, It is a pity that before writing the article published on Monday, October 17, Mr Moonman did not apparently trouble to read more of the evidence given to the Wilson Committee and particularly that given by the Treasury, the Department of Industry and the CBI, which has been widely publicised.

These support the evidence coming from the City itself that, in general, there has not been a serious, wide-spread, and long-term decline in the confidence of the public in the City, and that investment has been restricted by a lack of confidence that industry can earn a sufficient return upon it.

In suggesting that unlike "Parliament, the press and the Church" it does not have "its financial resources exposed to the public view", and that it "guards its mystique from public scrutiny", he discounts the work of the Wilson Committee which has even wider terms of reference than its predecessor, the Radcliffe Committee, which is surely the most thorough report on the working of the financial system yet produced, and an invaluable text-book.

It is true that because of the immense diversity of its markets and of the types of institution handling private savings, the "City" has never yet seen how any PR agency could act collectively for all those who have their offices in the Square Mile. What it has done is to establish the City Communications Centre, whose duties include directing inquiries from the media (and facilitating requests to the appropriate sources of information in the various sectors)—to identify authoritative spokes-

men, since no one can act as spokesman for the whole range of markets and institutions. Far from being complacent about the general ignorance of its role in the national life, its various sectors are widely engaged in disseminating to schools, universities, Parliament and the public, factual information on what they do, and why they do it that way.

Mr Moonman's confusion between "Finance for Industry" and the newly-created Equity Capital for Industry, betrays his own ignorance of the latter, and the funds available to the shareholders of the former (The London and Scottish Clearing Banks and the Bank of England) is additional to the billions the clearing banks provide to industry; and can hardly be described as a "half-hearted response to the national interest".

As for "City scandals", I would comment only that it is highly misleading to include under this heading failures in companies which operate across the world, simply because they happen to be quoted on the London Stock Exchange. My own view, often publicly expressed, is that the sense of outrage felt when a real City scandal takes place, usually far greater than the reaction to similar scandals occurring in other financial sectors abroad, is not only wholly salutary, but is a tribute to the innate honesty of those million or more who work in the British financial sector and who quietly get on with the job of earning £1,600m a year for Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC FAULKNER,  
Chairman,  
City Communications Centre,  
Seventh Floor, 100, Old Broad Street,  
The Stock Exchange,  
London EC2N 1HP.

From Mr J. T. McCART  
Sir, Mr Eric Moonman in his article of October 17 used the phrase "from the one-man jobbing or broking enterprise". Perhaps he would care to name one, because such a firm is specifically prohibited by the Rules and Regulations of the Stock Exchange (Rule 85 (1)).

Yours faithfully,  
J. T. McCART,  
74 Coniston Grove,  
Acklam,  
Middlesbrough,  
Cleveland,  
October 18.

From Mr R. P. L. McMurrian  
Sir, Hardly a week goes by when one does not hear some industrialist bemoaning the high rate of corporation tax. Similarly, one constantly hears of the lack of investment in industrial companies in the United Kingdom and even the lack of incentive to invest.

I wonder how many people appreciate, however, that under current fiscal arrangements large parts of corporation tax can be defeated by investing in plant and machinery which, in most cases, is allowable against corporation tax up to 100 per cent in the year of expenditure.

It would therefore seem there is a dichotomy on the one hand of those people who bemoan the high level of company taxation and, on the other hand, those who bemoan the lack of industrial investment in United Kingdom manufacturing companies.

Yours faithfully,  
R. P. L. McMurrian,  
R. L. Bush,  
Mr Bush,  
Hertfordshire SG4 7NL,  
October 19.

### Teaching of engineering at universities

From Professor A. C. Ross-Innes

Sir, What an odd letter from Mr Littlewood (October 19), so sure he would be agreed and justifiably so, that a kindred to British industrial performance was the poor quality of the product of the company and its inability to deliver what was ordered, or giving any evidence at all for this assertion. He would, of course, demand to know on what evidence I based these assertions.

I believe Mr Littlewood is wrong in many respects and very conservative, and the training is inferior to the given standard. Nevertheless, it may be right if so, it is a pity, and he should not be so sure of his ground as to these conclusions. After all, students are not from all over the world to study engineering and technology at British universities.

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. ROSS-INNES,  
Professor of Physics and  
Director of the Centre for  
Engineering and Technology,  
The University of Manchester,  
Institute of Science and  
Technology,  
PO Box 88,  
Manchester M60 1QD,  
October 19.

### Cutting down on waste at Companies House

From Mr K. N. Busfield

Sir, On September 28 you published a letter from Mr D. B. Nottage, HM Registrar of Companies for England and Wales, answering some criticisms of Companies House made in an article in *The Times* on September 27.

Mr Nottage says that 100 per cent perfection cannot be expected in the new microfiche system when there are over 50 million pages in the original records held in respect of 670,000 companies on the register.

The object of this letter is to suggest that Companies House is itself responsible for the size of its original records in that all our largest companies who prepare their annual list of members by computer are required to use the standard computer paper, the size and width of which is outside their control.

On a visit I made to Companies House to look at the annual share register of one of our leading public companies, I found that it consisted of 24 separate folders, each one roughly three inches thick. The register in total was therefore

six feet deep and, instead of having the 24 folders brought to me in the Search Room, I was allowed to go to the basement to inspect the register on its rack. There also were the annual share registers of other companies prepared in the same form.

The pages themselves consisted of wide sheets with green lines running horizontally across them on which the record of each shareholder's name, address and holding occupied the first one-third of each line, leaving the other two-thirds of the line a blank.

No doubt it is now too late for Companies House to inaugurate changes in the standard computer paper for annual lists of shareholders, but the prospect that in theory at least a large public company by saving two-thirds of each page of its annual return could reduce the size of its list of members by two-thirds seemed to me to be a prospect worth venturing.

Yours truly,  
K. N. BUSFIELD,  
5 New Square,  
Lincoln's Inn,  
London WC2A 3RJ,  
October 19.

### A national programme for sea resource

From Mr D. Laurent Giles

Sir, We are told that North Sea oil has reversed our economic plight—almost overnight. There fore before the nation throws its millions into the orgy of property speculation which usually accompanies such moments of optimism, might I make a plea for a better field of investment and opportunity?

It is no exaggeration to say that our surrounding seas and their resources could benefit our national wealth over the next hundred years as much as did our coal and iron resources in the past century. Consider the possibilities which lie within our 200-mile Economic Zone or Continental Shelf: oil, gas, coal, fisheries, wave/wind/solar energy, seabed mining or dredging—to say nothing of the possibilities for siting offshore nuclear power, chemical or other potentially dangerous installations: all of which could result in a wealth of allied industries with worldwide application to support the old country when the oil runs out.

Despite this, the responsibility for our offshore interests is dispersed among a baffling multitude of government depart-

ments and public bodies. Over matters of policy—even at those our emergency—there is a difficult and time-consuming to isolate a responsible authority within a bureaucratic wilderness bounded by the Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Defence, the Chairman of BP and the Chief Constable of Aberdeen.

At present, it is neither resolution nor leadership. To judge by recent party conferences and utterances, "Sir Jack Scallagill" (or whatever euphemistic presence directs our destiny) is more concerned with political dogma and personal survival than with any policy for exploiting these new-found resources. Without direction our fishermen languish for want of knowing what fish they may catch and where (and when) to catch them. Our offshore financial institutions demand over investment in offshore technology; our navy (or whoever is responsible, depending on various "variables") cannot plan sensibly for the security and policing of these interests; our shipbuilders: know not what ships to build, nor for whom; our companies hesitate to pay for essential research and our universities are starved of funds to develop the necessary

academic disciplines. Finally, our youth remains unimpressed and unmotivated by the fired with interest in a fascinating new area of activity offering challenge, opportunity and reward.

In May, 1961, President Kennedy committed his country to the exploration of space by putting a man on the Moon within a decade. By instituting the space programme and applying the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the official authority to direct an effort which gave needed impetus and focus to a complete project which has opened a great new field of technology and industry. Would it be much to invite our leaders to follow this example of President Kennedy—over the next decade, to establish a national programme for the exploitation of the resources and a single authority to direct it?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LAURENT GILES,  
Thornycroft, Giles &  
Associates Ltd,  
The Embankment,  
Brimsford,  
Isle of Wight, PO35 5NS,  
October 16.

### First-time buyers and the fall in mortgage rates

From Mr C. G. Yapp

Sir, I wish to add a little discord to the news of the cut in mortgage rate. This news according to some commentators is supposed to help the first-time buyer. May I suggest that the building societies' net inflow reflects the level of house prices rather than the rate of interest. The saving produced by a cut of 1 per cent in the interest rate is lost by an increase in price of £500. Given the depleted housing stock and large scale unemployment inside the construction industry, I can see that increased demand will push up prices and the effect on the house-building programme will be negligible, at least in the short term.

The people who benefit from falling rates are those who already have mortgages or who own their homes. They will see the value of their investments rise, but how does that help those who do not have mortgages?

What is needed to help the construction industry and the home buying population is a shift in Government policy and a rethink of the structure of housing finance. For far too long the housing sector has been given too low a priority by Government. Sadly, for many would-be house buyers the cut in interest rates will prove to be cosmetic.

Yours faithfully,  
C. G. YAPP,  
100 Albert Mansions,  
Lurline Gardens,  
London, SW11,  
September 23.

### Douglas to go ahead with quieter DC9

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

In a decision which will reverberate in the board rooms of the world's aircraft manufacturers, McDonnell Douglas is to go ahead with the development of a new version of its DC 9 airliner (above) following orders for 36 machines from three airlines.

Almost every manufacturer has advanced plans to make a new airliner, but McDonnell Douglas is the first to announce a firm go ahead.

Britain, France and West Germany have been considering for many months the possibility of collaborating on either a British design, the X-11, or a French design, the A 200. Fears that the new American

project may bite into the market could hasten these deliberations.

McDonnell Douglas announced yesterday that it had taken firm orders for its new DC 9, coded the DC 9 Super 80, worth \$400m (about £228m).

Swissair has ordered 15 with options to buy five more. Air France has ordered eight, with options for a further four, and Southern Airways, an American domestic carrier, four. In addition, Linea Aeropostal Venezolana has signed a letter of intent to buy three Super 80s.

The manufacturers claim that the new airliner will be the quietest jet airliner in service, that its operating costs will be the lowest of any in its class,

and that its fuel consumption per passenger will be the lowest for any commercial jet.

Its quietness was an important factor in obtaining the important order from the Swiss, whose airport authorities are under great pressure to reduce noise.

The DC 9 Super 80 will carry a maximum of 172 passengers in a fuselage 14 feet 3 inches longer than the largest current DC 9, the series 50. Wing area will be increased by 28 per cent.

It will be powered by two Pratt and Whitney JT8D-209 turbofans with 18,500lb of thrust each. The 209 engine has been specially developed to produce increased thrust while burning less fuel.

### Southwark puts up £3m for jobs fund

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

Southwark Borough Council yesterday launched a £3m fund to keep commerce, industry and jobs in the area and to attract enterprises.

The fund, which will be financed largely from council reserves, not by the ratepayers, is claimed by the borough to be the first such local authority fund to stimulate employment and industry.

Southwark, which has large stretches of docklands within its boundaries, has seen the number of manufacturing jobs reduced in the last six years from 40,000 to 25,000, and this initiative is an attempt to regenerate commerce and industry and bring back the lost jobs.

The fund will be used to finance direct council action or for partnership schemes with the private sector to demolish old buildings, provide new industrial premises and refurbish existing buildings.

The council will also provide financial assistance for small companies, which the council hopes will form the bulk of new industrial development.

More than 100 companies are in touch with the council with a view to taking units in new developments both in the Surrey Docks area and elsewhere in the borough.

### Expansion for Argos store chain

By Patricia Lladell

Argos Distributors, the catalogue showroom chain founded four years ago by Mr Richard Tompkins, owner of Green Shield Stamps, yesterday announced plans to expand in Scotland. The group's first Scottish store is being formally opened in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow today.

The company says it intends to open an additional nine stores in Scotland, including a second in Glasgow, in the near future. The new opening will be at Dundee early in 1978 and negotiations for suitable sites

are proceeding at Ayr, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Perth, Stirling, Aberdeen, Paisley and East Kilbride.

Argos has overcome its early setbacks. While it had hoped initially to have 300 stores trading by mid-1976 it has recently been able to expand its starting base of 17 to 61 stores. Total turnover of the company for 1977 is forecast at £100m.

Argos is now looking to Argos for assistance during the streamlining operation. Among the changes is a move by Mr Phillips from Argos to become chief executive and joint managing director of Green Shield.

The company forecasts that by 1980 the group will be operating 100 showrooms throughout the United Kingdom with at least in Scotland, Green Shield, the Argos sister company, is in process of a large-scale management reorganization and rationalization programme after the loss of business from Tesco last June.

It is understood the group is looking to Argos for assistance during the streamlining operation. Among the changes is a move by Mr Phillips from Argos to become chief executive and joint managing director of Green Shield.

### US coal link for Taylor Woodrow

By John Huxley

Taylor Woodrow Construction is to join forces with four American companies in energy-related industries to expand its coal interests into the United States.

The new association, which will be called Van Dyke Coal Group, will locate and evaluate potential coal mine acquisitions. It is expected to concentrate on medium-sized open cast mines in the eastern States. The American companies involved are Forest Oil Corporation, of Denver, Helmerich and Payne Inc. of Tulsa, Santa Fe Minerals, of Dallas, and Van Dyke, of Houston.

Van Dyke will manage the programme from its offices in Houston and new premises in Charleston, West Virginia.

Taylor Woodrow has been engaged in open cast mining since 1942. Apart from a £17m project in Wales, the company is engaged on a £130m contract for the National Coal Board at Butterwell, Northumberland. This involves the recovery of 12.5 million tons of coal over the next 10 years.

It is believed that, in common with many other British groups, Taylor Woodrow has been looking for expansion opportunities abroad because of the depressed state of the home construction market.

### Tighter rules on acetylene to be introduced

Regulations governing the use of acetylene gas are to be tightened up. Already this year more than 50 accidents have been reported—one of them fatal.

The Health and Safety Executive is drafting regulations which would give statutory backing to the 21 points of guidance with which users seeking approval for holding acetylene at 0.625 bar (9psig) are asked to comply.

More stringent regulations already govern the use and holding of the gas at pressures greater than 1.5 bar (22psig).

### Builders to press for Healey talks

A deputation from the construction industry will continue to press for a meeting with Mr Healey, starting next month, despite the Chancellor's recent decision not to meet the eight-man group. The deputation was told that Mr Healey was too heavily involved in preparing his Budget.

Yesterday, however, Mr Patrick Harrison, secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, who has been closely involved in the work of the deputation, said that its members would again be seeking an early meeting. "They would be most unwilling to accept 'no' for an answer."

Sir, I wish to add a little discord to the news of the cut in mortgage rate. This news according to some commentators is supposed to help the first-time buyer. May I suggest that the building societies' net inflow reflects the level of house prices rather than the rate of interest. The saving produced by a cut of 1 per cent in the interest rate is lost by an increase in price of £500. Given the depleted housing stock and large scale unemployment inside the construction industry, I can see that increased demand will push up prices and the effect on the house-building programme will be negligible, at least in the short term.

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Yours faithfully,  
C. G. YAPP,  
100 Albert Mansions,  
Lurline Gardens,  
London, SW11,  
September 23.

### Lord Kissin, Chairman, reports year of further growth in International Services.

© Prospects for the Company's services remain excellent, particularly in areas of rapid economic development such as the Middle and Far East.

© Over £3m. has been reinvested this year in the Company to develop and expand our Service business worldwide.

© International Services comprise:  
Loss Adjusting • Cargo Inspection • Marine Services • Non-destructive Testing and Inspection • Consulting and Laboratory Services • Freight Forwarding and Transportation, operating in 35 countries and employing 3,000 qualified staff.

|                    | Year to 31.3.77 | Year to 31.3.76 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fees and Turnover  | £35.2m.         | £20.6m.         |
| Profit before Tax  | £5.3m.          | £2.9m.          |
| Earnings Per Share | 25.5p.          | 15.1p.          |

### Esperanza Trade and Transport Limited

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from:  
The Secretary, 18 Rood Lane, London EC3M 8AP.



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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## At the heart of the monetary debate

The concept of published monetary targets has not been working at all badly over the past year and should be regarded as an essential foundation to financial stability in the future.

The Governor of the Bank of England did not go quite the whole hog in his speech at the Lord Mayor's dinner last night. Indeed, he said that he himself would not necessarily look for any short-term relationship between changes in the money supply and changes in prices. But he did argue that over time monetary targets should be an increasingly pervasive influence in moderating inflation—seemingly because of their effect on expectations and the way in which they would be bound to limit the availability of monetary instruments for other purposes.

That, however, takes us to the heart of the matter. What the Governor presumably meant by all this was that the scope for government to resort to the printing presses for reasons of political expediency would be reduced and, equally importantly in the immediate context, that the scope for tampering with the cost of money when a quarterly target had been set would also be reduced.

Just so, just so, one can hear the financial markets saying. But, they will add, the Governor gave precious little indication as to precisely what implications this has for the immediate future at a time when market forces appear to be rapidly driving the authorities towards having to make new choices in looking at the quantity and price of money.

For the present, in fact, the authorities seem to be suggesting that the question of decision has not yet quite arrived and that one month's money supply figures should not be read in isolation. But that will not stop market's speculating that this is mere playing for time ahead of the Chancellor's speech to Parliament next week.

That said, the Governor did appear to be saying last night that any significant relaxation of outward controls on direct investment might be rather further off than expected. The continuing firmness of the dollar premium, however, continues to reflect market confidence that the abolition of the 25 per cent surrender for portfolio investors is still close at hand.

### Hawker Siddeley

#### Cash rich

Hawker Siddeley's potential for growth following the nationalization of its aerospace activities in April is becoming clearer. Remaining activities could not have been expected to repeat the 43 per cent rise in trading profits last year, but have continued to increase with a 20 per cent increase in the first half, which is ahead of most expectations and should be at least equalled for the full 12 months.

Pre-tax profits are 30 per cent higher at £45.3m but that improvement overstates the trend because of the distorting effect of adding in interest receipts from repayment of most of the £53m of loans from the parent to the aerospace subsidiaries on a short-term basis. This has had the effect of turning an interest charge debit of £2.1m in the corresponding half into a £1.43m credit, indicating total cash balances currently of around £50m and £70m.

It is this figure, and the trend at the earnings level which is much more important. Hawker at the moment, than any other company, has in fact done its utmost to its nationalization money out as fast as possible, by arranging for the parent to owe aerospace subsidiaries money, rather than the other way about, and by sharply increasing the aerospace companies' dividends to the parent to around £55m in 1974.

Although this will have no effect on total received it may mean that Hawker has ready got most of what is coming. Even there should be at least another £30m.

To make the same earnings on the nationalization money was produced from aerospace, Hawker needs to produce profits at a rate sufficient to equal the £4.5m after profit contributed by the division and

taken below the line for the four months before vesting day.

This is clearly going to be difficult, but in the half, the four month aerospace contribution only added a fifth to earnings, and if earnings from the remaining activities were no more than maintained in the second half they would still be 21p per share for the full year.

That in itself provides a modest p/e of 9, at 190p for a group with £60m already under its belt in cash, with a continuing positive cash flow and an underlying growth rate of 20 per cent. But there are signs that growth could quicken in the second half. The lighter diesel engines are beginning to pick up, if slowly, and the electrical division remains strong.

The speculative element, though, remains the cash. Some have already been invested in L. Gardner, while Hawker showed that it was prepared to drop out rather than pay what it considered fancy prices by dropping out of the battle for Herbert Morris.

Gardner is probably a pointer to future acquisitions—shares with a cash alternative for a company with a good product but needing financial muscle for development.

The £50m in the balance sheet coupled with shares strong enough not to suffer dilution remains an intriguing prospect. But the 3.2 per cent yield is a restraining factor on the price despite the potential six-times cover for the dividend.

### International Combustion

#### NEI tries to tidy up

Northern Engineering Industries—formed by the merger of Clarke Chapman and Reynolds Parsons only a month ago—hasn't wasted any time in bidding for International Combustion with a package of equity and cash. In a sense this is a tidying-up exercise since Clarke Chapman originally took over the United Kingdom operations of International Combustion (Holdings) leaving a cash shell at home combined with an unwanted overseas trading ramp.

But the nature of the deal also carries with it some intriguing long term possibilities. NEI came out with the bid after agreeing the terms of a joint venture with International Combustion Engineering, the United States company that holds a 45 per cent stake in ICE. In exchange for that holding ICE will increase its stake in NEI from 6.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

In addition worldwide licensing and technology agreements will bring the companies even closer together, a union that opens long-term possibilities in view of CE's nuclear reactor capabilities.

ICE shareholders may well be disappointed that its major shareholder has made this move, but the company just seemed to have fully recovered after the sale to CC. Profits this year look as though they are heading for the £2.5m mark from £1.8m last time following some limited use of the cash left in ICE, which is still around £3m. With 45 per cent of the equity committed to NEI, other shareholders are not in a strong position to press for a higher price. But if ICE are talking of an exit p/e ratio of around 8 that may not be quite good enough.

● The extent to which Peachey Property Corporation appears able to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut in its defence against the £11.75m bid from Allied London Properties comes as something of a surprise.

Assets of around 100p per share have long been thought to be the order of the day and Peachey shares have been consistently ahead of the 55p bid price. But revolution shows asset backing of 131p per share before any capital gains tax liability which, on a 25 per cent discount, would support a price of 98p per share, against a market price of 78p.

The group, of course, still faces investigations from both the Fraud Squad and the Department of Trade, although chairman Lord Mals is right to stress that the present and the future are now far more important than the chequered past. As for the bid, Allied London has another six days to decide whether to forge ahead or to take a handsome dealing profit, and the odds are that it will take the latter course.

## Venice: a sausage to the rescue?

The future of Venice depends not merely on preserving the buildings and monuments on which international attention has focused, but in the less spectacular task of combating pollution and regaining the waters of the lagoon. Industry claims it is doing its bit, and that it is time for the Government to act.

Among local firms, Montedison is usually regarded as the main culprit responsible for the industrial pollution. In the eyeshot of Porto Marghera, six kilometres away, it has Italy's densest and possibly dirtiest concentration of the chemical industry, a 550m complex which employs 12,500 workers producing fertilizers, petrochemicals and synthetic fibres.

Unfortunately there can be no immediate question of closing these and the other factories in the Porto Marghera-Mestre industrial area, unless one wishes to leave the workforce without a livelihood.

Montedison's performance was defended recently by Signor Alberto Grandi, senior vice-chairman. Between 1972 and 1976, he said, the company reduced discharges into the air of sulphuric acid from 12,500 tonnes to three plants and thermo-electric power station by two thirds.

The same was the case with industrial dusts, while the discharge of hydrochloric acid was only 1 per cent of what it had been five years ago. Montedison, moreover, was engaged on a 70,000m lire (£46m) programme to reduce effluent discharge into the lagoon.

This is only a small part of what needs to be done for the future of the lagoon. Last year a consortium of firms responded to a call from the public works ministry for tenders for schemes to "preserve the hydro-geological equilibrium" and to protect the city centre from periodic flooding, since then a commission from the ministry has been reviewing these proposals.

The Agilite consortium, headed by Pirelli-Finmare, has attracted attention because of Pirelli's device for installing submerged, inflatable rubber dykes across the three mouths of the lagoon for protection in times of danger.

Pirelli-Finmare has successfully carried out pilot experiments with a 63 metre sausage at Punta Fila in the Po Delta. The other consortiums are headed by Cogefar, Torino, Grandi Lavori and Vianini-Dragaggi.

Pirelli officials also decline to discuss their project, so as not to prejudice the Government's decision. It is understood in well informed circles to go well beyond the scope of the lagoon, and to comprise an overall integrated plan for regulating the waters and reducing pollution.

The immediate lagoon area covers about 500 square kilometres with a population of about 230,000, but the pollution effects may spread to an area inhabited by 800,000. Despite efforts, firms like Montedison, the harm if unchecked could raise fears of an aquatic Sèvres.

It is clear that merely blocking Venice from the sea's floodwaters is not enough. If anything, this would tend to worsen the pollution problem, by limiting the free movement of currents. What is needed is to encourage greater water movement in certain directions, to take pollution from sewage and industrial waste away from Venice and from the industrial area, and if possible away from the lagoon altogether.

The Agilite project is believed to be designed to do just this, placing submersible inflatable dykes across the lagoon to create differences in water levels and to change the speed and direction of currents.

John Earle

Mr Roy Hensley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, would do well to examine the recent changes in the pattern of beer distribution during post-Price Commission report talks with the brewing industry.

For the changes could mean that the tied house structure, criticized as inefficient by the commission and regarded eight years earlier by the Monopolies Commission as against the public interest, may not be the turning point it once was.

Information contained in the Price Commission's report and the Brewers' Society reply, but not stressed in either, shows a striking shift in beer sales towards the "free" trade. During the last 10 years the volume of beer sold by non-brewery-owned outlets has risen from 34 per cent to 44 per cent.

The value of the free trade share is likely to be higher than indicated by the volume split since more of the beer it handles is of the expensive pre-packaged variety.

Even more significant, as a pointer to the future, is that the rate of growth in the free trade is accelerating both in numbers of outlets and volume of beer sold, while the tied trade is on the decline on the same two counts.

Since 1967, the number of licensed clubs has gone up by 14 per cent; free trade outlets have risen by 39 per cent and numbers of free trade restricted licence premises such as restaurants have nearly doubled.

In contrast, the number of on and off-licensed premises owned by the brewers has dropped by 17 per cent during the same period. While the statistic may be misleading if too much is read into it, it is worth noting that the number of free trade outlets now exceeds the number of brewery-owned outlets by almost two to one.

## Beer shakes off its old ties

Undoubtedly the most visible element in the change is in the take-home trade. Large numbers of non-brewery owned off-licences have sprung up within grocery shops, chain stores and railway stations during the past few years. At the same time the number of brewery owned off-licences has dropped.

Overall, the number of off-licences has expanded from 32,000 to 35,000 since 1970, with the free trade accounting for about 20,000.

However, despite its impressive growth, (sales of beer through off-licences expanding at about twice the rate of the market overall), off-licences still account for only about 12 per cent of total beer sales by volume.

Of much more importance in sales volume terms are clubs. Working men's clubs are accepted as an integral part of the North of England, Wales and Midlands way of life. But elsewhere, too, there are large numbers of clubs linked to businesses, sporting activities, churches and political parties as well as those run purely commercially.

The numbers are far larger than is generally recognized. The Brewers Society estimates that there are now some 30,000 registered clubs in the United Kingdom, or approximately one for every two public houses. Collectively, the various clubs now account for over 21 per cent of total beer sales, up from about 19 per cent in 1970.

One of the attractions of the clubs for beer drinkers is that they sell their beer at prices which are highly competitive

with those charged by public houses either because they trade on a non-profit basis or because they subsidize bar sales from other activities.

Club takings, notably from gambling machines, are higher than those of public houses where the use of such machines is more restricted. As a result, many clubs can afford to charge lower bar prices.

Technically, the clubs are not completely free of all brewery ties. It is customary for them to be financed from low interest loans from brewers in return for undertakings to sell that brewers' beer and possibly its soft drinks, spirits and wines as well. The Monopolies Commission found in 1965 that the most usual tie covered 100 per cent of draught beer sold and 75 to 80 per cent of bottled and canned beer and wines and spirits.

However, developments since that report was written have tended to weaken the exclusivity of the bond between clubs and brewers. Many of the earlier loans which tended to be for comparatively short periods of five or ten years have been paid off. In addition there has been intense competition between the brewers who fully realize the importance of clubs as outlets for their beer.

Led by Scottish and Newcastle, one of the first big brewers to give clubs financial support, very large sums are now being pumped into the free trade by most of the big brewers. In 1967 the Monopolies Commission estimated that some £14m was on loan to clubs from the seven largest brewers.

By 1976, stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie estimate that commercial loans to secure business from clubs and other free trade outlets amounted to more than £100m.

Club proprietors are equally aware of their bargaining powers. Increasingly, mainly because they fear that their beer supplies might be cut off by industrial disputes or other distribution difficulties, they are hedging their bets and looking for finance from several sources.

In a sense, the rise of the free trade endorses the Price Commission's criticism that the tied trade system is inefficient. For the demand, particularly in catering for take-home sales, could have more easily been satisfied by an extension of existing public houses and off-licences. There have longer opening hours and an established clientele than supermarkets and chain stores, and efficient operation would not have let the opportunity slip from its grasp.

Publicans will argue with much justification that their brewery "tie" prevented them from offering sufficiently keen prices for wines and spirits, the cornerstone of the off-licence's trade. Brewers will say that insufficient numbers of their tenants showed enough initiative in wanting to diversify from them to alter their historical pricing structure.

On this particular score the argument has been settled with the free, completely unaffiliated trade gaining by far the bulk of take home beer as well as wine and spirit sales. If the present rise in club and other free trade off-licence outlets continues, argument about the dominance of the tied trade structure for on-premise consumption could soon become equally redundant.

Patricia Tisdall

## More power to the battery on wheels

"Electric vehicles are unfairly associated with poor road performance from the image of the milk float", a speaker commented at a conference earlier this year. "But this is because the milk float is a deliberate design to provide just the door-to-door performance of the horse that it replaced."

Today's electric horse is faster and more lively, but still tires easily. Battery-powered vehicles in general still suffer from a short operating range. But the technology is approaching the stage where, for appropriate types of light transport work, the electric vehicles could begin to make commercial sense.

Next month the Greater London Council and the Department of Industry are launching a three-year assessment of electric delivery vehicles operating in the London area. Over 60 vehicles powered by chloride, Lucas and Crompton electrical systems will be operated by London boroughs and other organizations.

Users will pay the price of a comparable conventional vehicle, with the Department of Industry making up the bulk of the extra cost of the electric model. The suppliers are contributing also by taking a smaller profit on these machines.

The department's total contribution will be about £340,000. Performance of the vehicles in service will be monitored and analysed by the GLC.

Main purpose of the scheme is to obtain reliable data on running costs, performance, ease of repair, energy consumption, and so on, and to note drivers' impressions. The vehicles will be delivery vans, with payloads from 0.75 to 2 tonnes, employed on a variety of duties in urban traffic conditions.

This broad category of vehicle operating in heavy traffic such as that in London is believed to offer the best commercial prospects for the use of electric power on the roads.

Both Chloride and Lucas have concentrated on modifying existing designs of vehicles rather than developing special electric designs from scratch. Chloride's candidate in the GLC



A battery powered bus developed by Chloride in 1974 to operate in Lancashire and Cheshire.

scheme is the "Silent Karrier", a 35cwt delivery van already developed as a joint venture with Chloride and the National Freight Corporation.

A batch of 16 of these is now coming off the Chrysler production line at Dunstable for evaluation by users such as National Carriers (an NFC subsidiary), W. H. Smith, Rank Hovis McDougall and Unigate.

For the London scheme, Mr Michael Edwards, Chloride chairman, said at an open day at Chloride Technical's technology centre at Swinton, Manchester, this week, 25 Silent Karriers had been ordered. The Government contribution to their cost would be £150,000.

A lightweight, high-energy, motive-power battery developed for the Silent Karrier should give a range of about 65 miles between charges.

In these immediate projects both Chloride and Lucas are employing improved versions of conventional lead-acid traction batteries, as used in the many thousands of vehicles which deliver milk in towns and cities, lift and move assorted loads via fork-lift trucks in industry, and place inaccessibly members of the travelling public at hazard on the concourse and platforms of Waterloo Station, London.

While their technology is similar, the two battery companies are aiming at different users of vehicles. Lucas has linked with Vauxhall in a smaller (one tonne payload) electric vehicle based on the Bedford OF range of vans. This range includes minibus versions.

Mr Geoffrey Harding of Lucas outlined his company's philosophy at a recent Electric Vehicle Development Group conference as follows: First, the lead-acid system will provide the only viable battery system for at least the next seven years.

Secondly, it will not be possible to build a viable private passenger car for the United Kingdom market within a similar period.

Thirdly, electrical vehicles will sell in quantity only if they are cheaper to own and operate than petrol vehicles, and if they are as reliable and predictable as the regular duties of fleet operators.

Fourthly, electric vehicles will sell in quantity only if they are cheaper to own and operate than their internal-combustion engine counterparts.

For the London scheme, 30 Bedford-electric vehicles will be supplied by Lucas to operate on the concourse and platforms of Waterloo Station, London.

Meanwhile the company's main development programme continues, with about two more years to run. By 1980, Lucas expects to be able to offer a vehicle which might have a selling price only 50 per cent higher than a petrol-engined equivalent.

Both Lucas and Chloride claim that the battery-powered vehicles will have a longer operating life than the equivalent conventional ones, and that total costs over the life of the vehicle will be less for the electric versions.

At present the selling price of an electric van might be 2.5 times that of a conventional vehicle. Dr Brian Edwards of Chloride believes that, for his company's size of electric vehicle, whole-life costs will be comparable to those of a diesel vehicle when the ratio of capital costs comes down to 2:1.

The third main supplier involved in the London scheme, Crompton, will provide a smaller number of lower-speed vehicles. These will be in effect a new generation of the well-proven, long-life milk-floats.

Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

## Business Diary: CBI's Sir Donald • High society

Donald MacDougall, chief economic adviser to the Confederation of British Industry, the man behind Britain's Business 1977—the confederation's most ambitious statement so far—is used dispensing advice to governments. He did so as Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury and Head of the Government Economic Service until 1973. Sir Donald, 65, was close to Churchill during the war, when he served as chief adviser to Prime Minister's statistical staff. He went to work on his statistics when he joined CBI, expanding the economic department. There are now professional economists. Other backroom boys continued in the preparation of documents include Eric Fife, the CBI's director-general, who acted as managing editor. The industrial relations content was the responsibility of Alan Sydenham, an adviser on social affairs of a former Engineering

Employers' Federation man, and the foreign bits came from Kit Cope, a former Foreign Office man.

Gwyneth Williams is well-known in building society circles—and not only because she is the only top executive in the building society movement who happens to be a woman. The fact that she is to lose her status as managing secretary of the South Wales Building Society is, however, no bar to her career.

The £8,250,000 South Wales society is to merge, subject to members' approval, with the Bristol & West Building Society, which has some £500m under its belt. Miss Williams' swansong—the is nearing retirement—which is the principal reason for the merger—will, as a result, be played on a larger stage.

Instead of looking after a single office in Swansea, she will now have special responsibility for all the Bristol & West's branches in the Principality, including Cardiff, Newport and Carmarthen, as well as Swansea.

Her fluent Welsh will be welcome and so will her humanity. In Swansea she is noted for the personal interest she takes in her borrowers, particularly when, as sometimes happens, they run into difficulties over their mortgages.

For the Bristol & West, the merger proposal revives old memories. In the old days the society used to be known as the Bristol, West of England and South Wales Permanent Benefit Society. With Celtic foresight it actually began

reminding the Welsh of this (in Welsh as well as English) in August, starting with advertisements in the proclamation for the next Eisteddfod.

Well before the merger proposal, it prophesied: "Our name is shorter, but our links with South Wales are growing stronger."

There will be some familiar voices missing if you are telephoning business offices around Europe today: they are all to be heard in London.

Executive secretaries who in this country work for the likes of Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, meet this morning for the start of the two-day annual conference of the European Association of Professional Secretaries (EAPS).

Mrs Gwen Cowan, who is the association's vice-chairman and the United Kingdom national secretary. She told Business Diary last night that the theme of the meeting will be "The Career Development of the Professional Secretary".

This, she said, meant not so much making it easier for secretaries to move out into management as persuading managers to bring in secretaries as part of the management team, rather than treating them as "something stuck on the outside, only half-briefed on what's going on".

Parker, she says, is "marvellous" at seeing her as part of the management team, which will explain why she has stuck with him for 20 years in his various jobs.



Gwen Cowan

association was founded three years ago by Sonia Vanuier, an English management training consultant who now runs the EAPS headquarters in Paris.

It was simple to organize a speaker for tonight's conference banquet at The Guildhall. It will be Sir Alexander Glen, who recently retired from the chairmanship of the British Tourist Authority—where his secretary just happened to be EAPS United Kingdom committee member Pauline Walford.

Dr John Treasure, group chairman of J. Walker Thompson and a spokesman for the advertising industry, is returning to academic life as dean of the City University Business School in London.

Treasure, 53, said last April that he would be leaving the agency before the end of the year. Twenty-five years with JWT was long enough.

A Welshman, Treasure took a first in economics at University College, Cardiff, and then lectured in Britain and the United States.

He became involved with JWT's British Market Research Bureau in the 1950s to support himself while he read for his doctorate at Cambridge. His subject—the problems of the British export trade—is by no means exhausted as a research topic.

Subsequently, Treasure joined the JWT staff and within five years was managing director of the bureau. He joined the board of JWT London as director of research in 1960 and became chairman of JWT London and BMRB seven years later. He was vice-chairman of JWT in New York for a while, becoming chairman of the JWT group in London in 1975.

Treasure has wanted to spread his wings for some time. He will not, however, be flying the coop altogether. He will still be selling people things—political policies to be precise—as chairman of the Conservative's overall communications strategy committee.

Gottfried Weilemann may feel a little out of place in London today, for he will be the only male among the 70 or 80 delegates who are expected here for the executive secretaries' conference.

There are two others, a Swede and a Dane, among the association's 200 or so members, but they are staying at home. Perhaps their wives wouldn't let them out.

Weilemann isn't even an executive secretary. Association members also include personnel officers, consultants and even some colleges. He is an affiliate member from the Swiss Institute of Office Organization.

A number of other men will also be sitting in at the conference. As observers.



Donald MacDougall



## THE BANKERS' DINNER

## Room for action to stimulate domestic demand

Mr Healey said: We are meeting tonight in a very different atmosphere from a year ago. The strength of sterling and the rise in our reserves is clear evidence of continuing international confidence in the United Kingdom economy.

Public expenditure will be within the planned level we announced for 1977-78. Public sector borrowing this year is running significantly below the agreed ceiling of £8.7 billion. So far this year domestic credit has been expanding at only about one-third of the rate permitted in the ceiling. And despite the effect of exceptionally large inflows of foreign currency, the growth of the money supply on the broader definition has kept within the range of 9 to 13 per cent year set out in my Budget speech—with inevitable fluctuations from month to month.

All this has helped to reinforce the progress we have made in reducing inflation. The second round of voluntary pay policy was an impressive success. In consequence, with a strong pound and stable commodity prices, our year-on-year inflation rate is now falling fast after the setbacks earlier this year.

In the current round, the Government's guidelines and the September vote of the Trades Union Congress in favour of maintaining the 12-month rule have had a powerful influence on the outcome of pay negotiations.

Tax cuts this year have checked the fall in real take-home pay while interest rates have fallen dramatically. These developments have significantly improved the climate for pay bargaining and industrial investment.

The third major improvement is in the balance of payments. Of course, this improvement owes much to the steadily increasing output of our North Sea oil fields. But there has also been a very satisfactory growth in the volume of our exports, which was 13.7 per cent up in the third quarter on a year ago. The United Kingdom has increased its share of world trade.

Mr Witteveen, the Managing Director of the IMF, like me views the improvement in our financial position as a basis for achieving a more satisfactory development of the real economy in the future. In Britain as in nearly all

other countries the recovery in real economic activity has been less than hoped for and expected, though improved retail sales figures suggest that demand may have begun to pick up in the third quarter as consumer price rises slowed down and as the summer tax cuts in the Budget began to take effect.

The growth in export volume has made an important contribution to demand. But we need more growth in Britain and throughout the world—above all because of unemployment, after declining between January and May this year, has since risen substantially.

Unemployment involves an intolerable waste of human and material resources. It creates a climate in which it is difficult to get agreement on the changes in work practices which are needed to raise productivity and to make new investment profitable. In the long run that damages employment prospects further.

Import restrictions have been multiplying in many countries in the last twelve months, and could produce an increasing chain reaction. They are the direct and inevitable consequence of the unemployment, which accompanies low growth.

The stronger economies must expand their domestic demand if they can without increasing inflation—and they must accept that their balance of payments may go into deficit in consequence.

The United States is now in substantial deficit on current account, but half of its deficit results from higher imports of manufactured goods from which Britain, like many other countries, has derived real benefit. Germany has accepted a significant reduction in its surplus—a reduction reflected in the very impressive increase in British exports to Germany over the last twelve months. Japan, however, looks like having a current account surplus of some \$10,000m this year.

All such surpluses must have their counterpart in deficits elsewhere in the world.

Growth in one country's economy contributes nothing to solving the current account problem if it is based to that extent on exports. Indeed it only aggravates the problem in many ways. It is through the international expansion of domestic demand that the sort of growth from which all can benefit.

Mr Denis Healey  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

far we in Britain can contribute to the necessary international expansion of domestic demand.

Partly because of disappointing investment levels and partly because of the low increase in world trade, our growth this year seems likely to fall short of our objectives.

Of course I cannot now anticipate the decisions I shall take in my Spring Budget to affect the next financial year. Nevertheless, the situation is one in which it is necessary to consider some further corrective action in the current year. And forecasts of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for this year and next year show that there is room for some further action within the limits announced last December.

Indeed unless we do take early action we shall be off track, and we shall face the risk of the British contribution to world recovery which other countries can reasonably expect from us.

First, investment. North Sea oil will continue to strengthen the balance of payments for some years to come. It will enable us to run the economy at a higher and more sustained level of demand than would otherwise be possible. But past experience has shown how quickly our trade balance can deteriorate and inflation rise when the economy is expanded beyond its capacity for growth.

On this occasion our objective is sustained expansion. We must therefore do more to strengthen our industrial base, so that the growth in demand is matched by a growth of domestic production and employment—not just by a growth in imports.

You may think that such very close attention to the balance of payments is a bit over the top. But the fact is that our demand has turned up, British industry has been caught short by supply constraints due at least in part to inefficient or too late investment. I look to the manufacturing investment in 1978 only as a beginning which we celebrate tonight.

ginning. As the revenues flow in from North Sea oil, the British economy will have the funds available to continue after year with investment increases of that order. And we shall need those increases if we are not to find ourselves with an inadequate industrial base when the flow of North Sea oil comes to its inevitable end.

Secondly, our rate of inflation is now falling steadily towards single figures. But it is still far too high—much higher than that of our competitors. Here also experience from the not so distant past has shown how an over-rapid expansion of demand can generate inflation.

One essential element in striking the right balance between our own objectives of expansion and low inflation must therefore be a monetary policy which avoids fuelling inflation but allows sufficient room for growth.

The Government is committed to controlling the monetary aggregates in general and in particular to respecting the levels set for DCE and sterling M3 this year.

I know some people argue that the monetary constraint allows no scope for an corrective action at all; that any fiscal expansion will feed through to higher prices rather than to higher output. I do not accept this, nor do my colleagues in the IMF. A policy of economic stagnation offers no answer to any of our present problems.

Victory in the battle against inflation now lies in our hands. But the future course of inflation in the United Kingdom will depend crucially on the level of our pay settlements.

For years now we have seen other countries make advances in their living standards, higher increases in their manufacturing strength. I think there is now at last a real chance of reversing the long period of relative under-performance relative to them.

In the decade from 1974 world growth seems likely to be much slower. The biggest check to growth is falling on those who grew fastest in the previous decade. There is a good chance that with the help of North Sea oil we shall succeed in raising our post-war growth rate over the next 10 years while others grow more slowly than in the past.

We can get lower inflation, higher real wages and higher payments, more investment, lower taxes, less stop and more go. Of course there are all too many ways in which we could throw this opportunity away.

But I think we can detect a new realism and a new sense of economic matters amongst the British people. If we can build on that realism and common-sense we can hope to see no less an improvement in the coming years than the improvement of the past 12 months which we celebrate tonight.

## Bank plea for monetary prudence

Mr Richardson said: The period since October, 1973, has seen us and much of the world at grips with a malignant and unparalleled combination of inflation, financial disequilibrium and recession. The consequences for the world economy are likely to be long-lasting and may, I fear, prove inhospitable to the optimistic expectations of earlier years.

Perhaps more interesting is why it has happened. The answer includes such important factors as the strengthening of current account position due to reduced dependence on imported oil and lower commodity prices and the outstanding success of Stage II of incomes policy.

But the essential catalyst was the credibility at last of the efforts made to put the national finances on to a more prudent and stable basis. Output has continued to be believed when they speak of the effects of confidence. Let me simply record that our financial turnaround is a spectacular demonstration of what confidence can do.

The real economy has not been transformed in the same way. Output has continued to stagnate, and unemployment to grow. Here too, however, though progress can only be gradual we can begin to see better things.

Having taken a cue in living standards, we can now expect the economy to show some growth over the next year and indeed, provided we manage things properly, we can look forward to a longer period of sustained growth than in the more normal years.

None is an sure will dispute my proviso about good management. If a fiscal stimulus is needed to support the process it must clearly be modest, and I would add, consistent with prudence in the monetary sphere. The need for such prudence is indeed the first theme I intend to develop tonight.

Financial stability requires monetary stability: and I regard the adoption of published monetary targets, first formally enunciated at this dinner last year, as an essential foundation.

Probably the most immediate benefit from a publicly announced monetary target derives from the assurance that money will not itself be a source of instability.

Beyond this, monetary targets give a clear indication to those responsible for economic decisions—including those affecting the course of future costs and prices—of the limits to which the authorities are, in effect, prepared to see inflation financed in the months ahead: the implication being that inflation at a faster rate will inevitably put the employment increasingly at risk.

I would not myself look for any short-term relationship between changes in the money supply and changes in prices; but, over time, as they are, the monetary target will be an increasingly pervasive influence in moderating inflation.

Such perseverance with monetary targets in the longer run would require a changed perception of monetary policy. Monetary instruments have hitherto tended to be seen as providing essentially flexible support for other tools of economic management.

But if monetary targets are to provide, as I believe they should, a continuing and long-term constraint on the inflationary bias which our economy, along with others, has been shown to possess, would follow that the availability of monetary instruments for other purposes would, over time, be significantly reduced. This seems to me to be a logical and desirable extension of the course we are now on.

Our use of debt management techniques such as the partly-paid issue and the variable rate stock has helped us to match the Government's funding programme more closely to the needs of monetary control. It should, however, remind you how difficult it is to forecast month by month what these needs may be, for the behaviour of the money stock reflects a wide array of financial flows which may vary considerably in the short-run.

Not only do external capital flows vary considerably, but the central government borrowing requirement itself fluctuates widely, as also does the scale of bank lending to the private sector. Fluctuations on the domestic side frequently tend to offset variations in external factors.

None the less, it is inescapable that there will be variations in the figures, the statistics for the latest banking months illustrate.

Amidst all this we in the United Kingdom have in North Sea oil an advantage not available to many other countries. But we must see straight through what it can do for us. It may be, as I said at the beginning of this year, I am clear that the first claim on the use of North Sea oil should be strengthening of our external balance sheet.

The great increase since then in our official reserves does not cause me to change that view. I turn now to domestic investment. Investment in the energy sector will make an important claim on our resources and responsibility for this we no doubt all recognise. It is, however, by no means wholly the public sector.

I should also want to stress the importance of conservation and I should be happier if saw greater determination in this respect in all industry countries.

We all agree, I think, on the desirability of using the best of North Sea oil to assist in the development and revitalization of British manufacturing industry. The question is how?

What we badly need is better productivity. Let me give you an illustration of what this could mean. A 1 per cent increase in our annual rate of productivity growth would, sustained, be worth more to us in output, even by the year 1980s, than the annual capital outlay to GDP of North Sea oil.

You will not be surprised therefore that I stress productivity as a key aspect of improved efficiency we need.

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**DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**  
MINISTRY FOR ENERGY AND THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY  
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**SONATRACH, Direction Engineering Central, 10 Rue du Sahara, Hydra, Algiers (Algeria)**  
Tel. 60.82.86 or 60.60.14. Telex SONED 52.375.  
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Bids should be sent to the above address to arrive not later than 15 November 1977 and shall be binding for a period of six (6) months from the date of submission.

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**CHILMAN EXTERNAL LONG TERM**  
RENTAL LAW NO. 1977  
CHILMAN EXTERNAL LONG TERM RENTAL LAW NO. 1977

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the above named Companies are required to submit their names and addresses and particulars of their shares or claims to the Liquidator of the above named Companies at the following address: **Mr. PETER PHILLIPS, F.C.A., 10 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1.** and if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator to produce evidence of their shares or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Failure to do so shall be deemed to be a default and the Liquidator will be entitled to proceed with the distribution of the assets of the Companies in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1948.

**NOTICE**

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**MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL**



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Poise recovered on Budget news

The increase in money supply forecast in Business News and later confirmed inspired some nervous selling in early trading which even news of a mini-Budget next week could not quite counteract.

But leaders preferred to take the wider view feeling that the market had done well to hold in the strong gains of the previous two sessions limiting the fall in the FT Index to just 1.7 for a close of 516.9.

Emphasis was once again on the second liners, in particular sectors like stores, consumer durables and buildings which it felt will reap the greater part of the benefit from the Chancellor's measures.

South African Industrial and old shares continued to retreat for the latest news from that country while in gilts there was mixed trading. On a light and longer maturities traded in a range between one-eighth and three-eighths but the shorter dates fell by similar amounts.

The news the chairman of Grippers: the corporate concern, will have at the annual meeting soon is likely to be a sharp gain. The profits slide last week on the first half of the year to last April continued in the second half. The bitter attack with the American committee, Roberts, is taking a firm toll of Grippers' market share and profits. We turned to the market for shares at 44p last February and 36p, down 3p, they still look to high. Apart from the Cowi only Keyser Ullman is thought to speak for a slice of its equity.

The initial response of Hawker Siddeley to interim figures was a rumpled decline but as leaders pondered the slide in shares gained strength to close 4p ahead at 2p.

Two leaders heavily down

were Bepchem at 648p and Fisat at 380p, both 10p lower while ICI shed 3p to 415p and its subsidiary IML, whose shares are to come onto the market as the parent sells off its holding, returned to close at 55p, 61p above the suspension price.

In the venerable South African sector OK Bazaars continued to stand out as a weak size of another 25p to 427p, while in gold shares there were some heavy losses from such as Vaal Reefs, down 12.25 to 121.25, West Dries 17.75 to 121. President Brand 87p to 89, and Buffelsfontein at 12.50 and Anglo-American Gold at 16.50, both lower by half a point.

Two particularly well supported issues in buildings were Rowland Construction, up 11p to 83p, and Burns Anderson which finished with a gain of 4p to 39p. Another building in the spotlight was Rugby Portland which ended 4p up to 34p after figures.

Some doubts over the pre-

vious day's figures brought some early selling of British Home Stores but the shares rallied later to close just 3p off at 229p. Peters Stores firmed a penny to 31p after figures but there was a lively trade in both Sears, up 2p to 68p, and Combined English Stores which rose 3p to 95p in spite of talk of a line of stock on offer in early dealings.

Speculative and bid interest centred on Bishop's Stores which rose 15p to 195p after a mention here on the possibility of a bid from Linford up 2p to 392p. International Combustion was 16p ahead at 96p, after news from Northern Engineering.

In foods FMC found support at 54p, up 4p, and another in demand was the speculative favourite Bibby which closed 3p up to 179p. Tate & Lyle was 6p off at 195p in reaction to recent gains.

In electricals consumer orientated issues like MK Electric 8p to 20p and Pico Electric 3p to 106p continued to

find favour. Another well ahead was Electrocomponents by 6p to 276p.

Jubilee year should prove a happy one for Toys R Us, makers of uniforms and, more significantly, souvenirs. Interim profits, just reported, rose 60 per cent and for the full year a figure of £160,000, against £104,000, is looked for. At 25p the shares stand at a big discount to the asset value of 51.5p which does not include property revaluation surpluses of £450,000.

Equity turnover on October 19 was £90.47m (16,395 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Consolidated Gold Fields, BP, GEC, BAT, DFD, British Home Stores, Marks & Spencer, Barclays Bank, BAT Ind, Shell Commercial Union, RTZ, De Beers International, Lindisfarne, IML, Bishops Stores, W. Driessfontein, Rugby Portland and Ladbrokes.

## Latest results

| Company            | Sales       | Profits      | Earnings   | Div        | Pay   | Year's |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------|--------|
| £m                 | £m          | £m           | per share  | pence      | date  | total  |
| Alginat Ltd (F)    | 8.46(5.85)  | 1.76(1.19)   | 15.1(10.1) | 4.46(4.0)  | 11/12 | (12.5) |
| Ames Ltd (F)       | 0.51(0.72)  | 0.20(0.14)   | 5.1(4.0)   | 2.4(2.0)   | 11/12 | (12.5) |
| Assan Ltd (F)      | 0.33(1.38)  | 0.20(1.29)   | 90.2(18.9) | 1.2(1.1)   | 11/12 | (12.5) |
| Brook St Bar (F)   | 4.4(4.7)    | 0.35(0.11)   | 2.0(1.4)   | 1.17(1.1)  | 9/12  | (12.5) |
| Cen & Sheerw (F)   | 31.2(26.3)  | 2.0(1.4)     | 2.78(1.99) | 1.12(1.0)  | 9/12  | (12.5) |
| Chatter Ltd (F)    | 0.87(0.54)  | 0.10(0.04)   | 0.39(0.11) | 0.10(0.0)  | 11/12 | (12.5) |
| De Vere Ltd (F)    | 11.23(9.36) | 0.10(0.05)   | 1.2(0.6)   | 1.59(1.7)  | 6/1   | (12.5) |
| Exlands (F)        | —           | 0.54(0.47)   | 4.4(3.7)   | 1.9(1.6)   | 8/12  | (12.5) |
| Gullford Prop (F)  | —           | 45.32(34.67) | 12.1(11.2) | 1.91(1.68) | 30/12 | (12.5) |
| Hawker Sid (F)     | 49.4(48.0)  | 5.6(5.5)     | 5.1(5.0)   | 1.82(1.6)  | 12/12 | (12.5) |
| Ind & Gen Tr (F)   | —           | 2.6(2.3)     | 4.1(4.2)   | 0.8(0.5)   | 7/12  | (12.5) |
| J.C. Lilly (F)     | 23.8(14.1)  | 1.37(1.07)   | 4.4(4.2)   | 1.0(0.5)   | 29/12 | (12.5) |
| L&L Leno (F)       | —           | 0.61(0.44)   | 5.3(4.6)   | 0.8(0.5)   | 9/12  | (12.5) |
| L&L Leno (F)       | —           | 0.32(0.38)   | 5.0(5.3)   | 1.0(1.0)   | 9/12  | (12.5) |
| L&L Leno (F)       | —           | 0.04(0.05)   | 0.2(0.05)  | 0.2(0.05)  | 9/12  | (12.5) |
| P & W Macin (F)    | 2.6(2.7)    | 0.14(0.03)   | 0.7(0.47)  | 0.7(0.47)  | 16/1  | (12.5) |
| Peters Stores (F)  | —           | 0.21(0.35)   | 9.3(3.5)   | 3.1(3.2)   | 5/12  | (12.5) |
| Sandown May (F)    | 4.74(2.91)  | 0.07(0.05)   | 1.67(1.69) | 0.7(0.4)   | 30/12 | (12.5) |
| Singapore Pulp (F) | —           | 6.8(4.6)     | 3.7(5.2)   | 0.7(0.5)   | 4/1   | (12.5) |
| Spencer Gears (F)  | 3.91(2.61)  | 0.36(0.17)   | 3.91(1.88) | 0.86(0.75) | 1/12  | (12.5) |
| W. W. Thompson (F) | 3.0(2.4)    | 0.48(0.31)   | 0.8(0.5)   | 0.8(0.5)   | 1/12  | (12.5) |
| W. W. Thompson (F) | —           | 0.16(0.17)   | 1.0(1.02)  | —          | —     | (12.5) |
| Witwatersrand (F)  | —           | 0.26(0.28)   | —          | —          | —     | (12.5) |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.015. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are not. Figures are for nine months. b Adjusted for sub-division of shares. c Loss.

## Demand growth gives illip to Brook St

An upturn in demand for filled industrial and clerical workers helped boost profits of Brook Street Bureau of Mayfair. With the improvement, shown on both the temporary and permanent employment sides, a group turned in a pre-tax profit of £355,000 in the six months to June 30, against £214,000 in the previous six months. Turnover, however, fell from £4.7m to £4.4m, which more than doubles pre-tax margins to 5.6 per cent.

In the six months currency change losses relating to the assets of overseas subsidiaries amounted to some £200,000. Brook Street is now back on road to recovery. In the interim chairman and director Mr. Eric Hurst reveals that it is doing well. In Australia the business is not so good. Last year's loss of £50,000 have been turned into a profit of £150,000. The group has a staff of 800, is continuing to test heavily in staff training



Mr. Eric Hurst, joint chairman of Brook Street Bureau of Mayfair.

and the creation of additional special divisions. This has marginally eroded second half profits but the benefits should show through during 1978, according to joint chairman Mr. Eric Hurst.

## Strike hits Amax quarter

In the third quarter of this year, net earnings of Amax, United States mining giant, fell from \$37.6m to \$30m (our £17m). Earnings per share were down from 1.08 to 0.85 cents.

The decline resulted from lower profits from operations, higher interest expense, and

smaller investment tax credits. Sales fell from \$303.7m to \$293.5m.

For the first nine months of this year, net earnings slipped from \$110.1m (\$3.19 a share) to \$90.2m (\$2.44), in spite of sales rising from \$886.2m to \$1,007.5m. For the whole of last year, net earnings were a record \$150.1m on sales of \$1,171m.

## Record first half for efferson Smurfit

A better first half both in the United Kingdom and abroad have given price and leading group Jefferson Smurfit its best ever six months. In the half to July 31, its profit rose almost 30 per cent from £4.6m to £5.8m, turnover up £21.5m to £2m. Specialist print continues to be a problem area in hand while in the United Kingdom there are signs of a recovery. But the chairman, Mr. Smurfit, says the results are encouraging and the ironies of the industry will remain intact. In Smurfit forecasts higher earnings for the group in the half.

## cks' variable

he list of applications has been for the variable rate of 1 per cent. Buckinghamshire City Council decided 1982 at 1 per cent. Pemberton & Boyle that applications for 000 of the stock and above been allotted up to 57.3 cent of the amount applied. Small applications have been allotted in full.

## lection buys Notts

ig stake in Wood. The £32m agreed bid made for this week by Celestia for another Marks & Spencer clothing supplier, Wood law Holdings, has been accepted by the acceptance of

## Costs swell at Anglo Am gold mines

By Ray Maughan

The introduction of the 11-shift fortnight last April has led to an increase in working costs at Anglo American Corporation's gold mines in the Orange Free State and Transvaal.

In the three months to end-September last, Free State Goldfield mined 898,000 tons against 845,000 tons in the previous quarter, while costs climbed from R18.56m to R19.7m. The profit, a ton mined fell from R33.07 to R31.25 although costs were barely changed at R21.94 a ton.

Tons mined at President Brand Gold Mine climbed from 764,000 to 788,000 while costs rose from R22.95 to R23.36. Operating profits from gold amounted R12.03m against R14.72m.

The substantial rise in profitability from R5.72 to R12.24 a ton, says President Brand Gold Mining led to an increased working profit of R9.9m for gold against R4.29m. Costs, however, advanced from R19.2m to R19.83m. Mined-out rose from 764,000 tons to 788,000.

Western Holdings, on the other hand, saw a steep fall in profits as a ton and although output mined went ahead from 764,000 to 815,000 tons gold working profits slipped from R20.37m to R18.51m.

In the Transvaal, Vaal Reefs Goldfield mined 1,84m against 1.78m in the September quarter and operating profits from gold climbed from R15.58m to R17.94m although costs were swollen from R46.39m to R50.24m.

## Cen &amp; Sheerw'd looking to £4m

By Tony May

The current year should bring in a record profit of over £4m for Cen & Sheerw'd, the engineering, publishing, printing and financial-services group which is currently making an agreed £2.5m bid for Photopia International.

On turnover 16 per cent up at £31.2m, pre-tax profits of £2.5m for the six months to June 30 have jumped 38 per cent to £2m. This gives margins of 6.4 per cent against 5.4 per cent.

After deducting minorities and pre-acquisition profits amounting to £55,000 compared with £10,000, and extraordinary items of £11,000, attributable profits are 35 per cent ahead at £280,000. Earnings a share are up from 1.99p to 2.78p.

Shareholders are to receive

an interim dividend raised from 1.5p to 1.69p, and the board says that no dividend restraints are eased or abolished. It intends to increase the distribution to shareholders.

Dr Francis Singer, the group's chairman, says that while the group's engineering interests provide the bulk of profits, he is encouraged by the way the other group activities have also managed to improve their results.

The present level of group trading indicates that the second half of the year should bring in a bigger profit than the first, so an outturn of more than £4m is likely, compared with the 1976 peak of £3.3m. The interim results include about £74,000 net from the results of Robert R. Stockfords (Manchester) for the six months to February 28. The

## Spencer Gears rides high over forecast

By Richard Allen

Spencer Gears, the London-based gear pump specialists, surprised itself with more than doubled pre-tax profits for the year to June 30.

The full-year outcome of £365,000 compares with a figure of £176,000 last time and is way ahead of the best own forecast of £300,000.

Sales were 50 per cent ahead at £3.9m, with most of the growth coming from increased demand for gear raising equipment and cooling machinery by the leading brewers.

However, the group's general

engineering interests—mainly in the supply of speeded gears for industry—have started showing signs of improvement after two years in the doldrums.

Mr F. W. Forbes, Spencer's chairman, says that turnover and profits have increased and the trend is accelerating. Mr Forbes says that the current year has started well.

After an interim dividend of 0.58p gross paid in July, final payment of 1.07p takes the total up to 1.65p—the maximum permitted increase.

Earnings a share go up from 1.88p to 3.91p.

## Battle for control of BEC takes new twist

A strongly-worded counter-attack by the three directors of British Electronic Controls who are trying to take the company back into the private sector, spurred the other side into the promise of a higher offer last night.

Derrington, headed by stockbroker Mr Tony Rudd, has already bid 30p in cash with an alternative of 35p in cash and shares compared to a 30p share cash offer from BEC to Sir Kenneth Smith, Mr Andrew Emerson and Mr John Rutherford who make up SRE Electronics. Derrington now says it is seriously considering stepping up the bid.

Mr Charles Strasser, the chairman of Photopia, could see no sign of growth slackening, and in fact the first three months of the current year showed a 27.5 per cent rise in sales.

Mr James Aitken, chairman, explains that margins were affected by the pressure on prices due to the downturn in demand in the United Kingdom and "conservative policies" have been adopted in assessing the position of overseas contracts at the stage.

Overseas work is expected to account for 40 per cent of the group's turnover in the current

year. The rise in depreciation from £444,000 to £714,000 reflects a quicker write-down of plant engaged on overseas work.

On prospects, Mr Aitken reports that although pressures resulting from the dearth of work available to the industry in the United Kingdom have been alleviated, margins, however, are still affected by a fall in interest received, pre-tax profits are only 27 per cent up at £13.7m. But this is still a sound achievement, coming on top of last year's record £2.5m before taxation.

The interim payment, gross, rises from 0.8p to 1.51p and the board intends to pay a final of 2.27p, making a total of 3.78p. This is in line with the indication given to shareholders at the time of the two-for-five rights issue in June. A total of 2p gross was paid on the old capital for the previous year.

## Lilley margins lower, but still go ahead

By Victor Felstead

Glasgow-based F. J. C. Lilley, the civil engineering and construction group, made further progress in the half-year to July 31—but margins have suffered.

Turnover jumped by 68 per cent to £23.83m, while trading profits were almost 45 per cent ahead at £2.07m, however, with heavier depreciation and a fall in interest received, pre-tax profits are only 27 per cent up at £1.37m. But this is still a sound achievement, coming on top of last year's record £2.5m before taxation.

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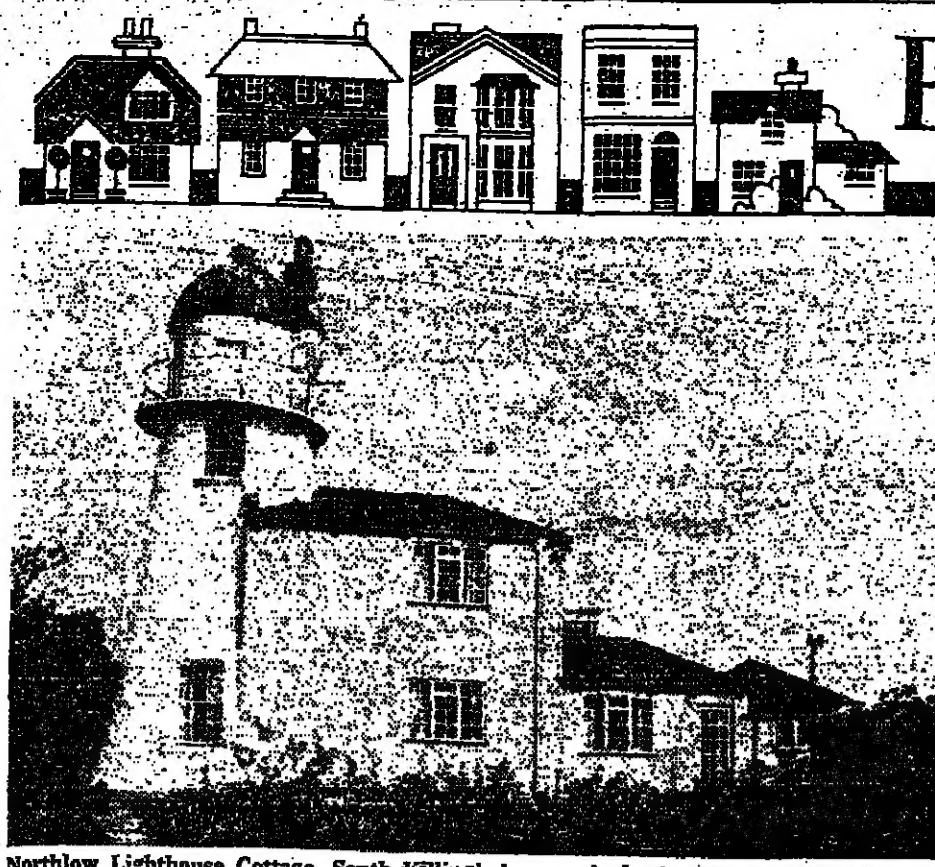
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Northlow Lighthouse Cottage, South Killingholme, on the banks of the Humber.

There is always a market for the residential oddity, even when it may not be in the best of locations. Then it becomes a matter of balancing advantages and disadvantages, having regard to the price.

One interesting property which offers quite a lot of space at low cost is an old converted lighthouse, known as Northlow Lighthouse Cottage, at South Killingholme on the banks of the Humber, which consists of a circular tower with a keeper's cottage attached. It was built as a navigational mark in 1851 and continued in this use until 1920. Although it is situated close to an industrial area, it is only a short distance from the estuary, over which it has wide views.

As might be expected, rooms vary from the practically circular to the normal, and the accommodation consists of a sitting room and dining room on the ground floor, two bedrooms on the first floor and a further bedroom on the second floor.

More orthodox is a property with the unusual name of Old Pinner Mill, at Malspice, near Newark, Gloucestershire, which stands in 30 acres of grounds interspersed by the Ell Brook. The mill is an ancient holding, as so many are, but the property was burnt down about 200 years ago and the present house dates mainly from Georgian times.

There is a large reception hall, two main reception rooms, study and nine bedrooms. The house is built on a hillside, and the property is surrounded by a river. The house is built on a hillside, and the property is surrounded by a river.

Another property, associated with a river is Bloxham House, at Fossebridge, in the Cotswolds. The house is an old Cotswold stone building with two odd-shaped reception rooms, four bedrooms and a dressing room. A separate block, also built of Cotswold stone, provides a double garage with a lift-contained studio flat above.

Accommodation includes two main reception rooms, study and nine bedrooms. The house is built on a hillside, and the property is surrounded by a river. The house is built on a hillside, and the property is surrounded by a river.

## Always a market for the oddity

Two acres of gardens include a well wooded area formed by the main stream of the River Colne and a mill stream. Both stretches of water are included in the sale, as are the fishing rights, part single and part double bank. The estate is 545,000 through Rylands and Co. of Cirencester.

A good deal of potential is provided by a property called Pinthorpe, at Ashford, Kent, a small country house possibly mainly seveneenth century in origin, but with a western wing added in the eighteenth century.

It has two reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room and three bedrooms. Gardens and grounds run to about 51 acres, including an unconverted two-round stone building. At present there is no planning permission for conversion, though this was granted in 1963 and has now lapsed. A price of £49,500 is being asked for the whole property, although a sale in two lots might be considered. The agents are Strutt and Parker, of Canterbury.

Suitable for a golfer, and with a house called The 11th Tee, in the Fairway, Worthington, Kent. Typical of the Victorian rectory of the period, it was built in 1869 of brick with a tiled roof. As might be expected, the accommodation is varied and includes two main reception rooms, a study or library, a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom, which is reached by a separate staircase. A good point of the house is that the old cellar has been lined and built out as a garage and shower room. Another unusual feature is that a comprehensive telephone system has been installed with two external lines and 10 extensions. Gardens and grounds total about 21 acres. The agents are Ashenden, of Ashford.

In addition, there is a small flat on the first floor, comprising two bedrooms and a bathroom, which is reached by a separate staircase. A good point of the house is that the old cellar has been lined and built out as a garage and shower room. Another unusual feature is that a comprehensive telephone system has been installed with two external lines and 10 extensions. Gardens and grounds total about 21 acres. The agents are Ashenden, of Ashford.

## Properties under £25,000

**VANDON COURT WESTMINSTER**  
Superb pied a terre in this superb area, modern black and white, two bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**MID WALES**  
charming old character 4 bedroom cottage on the outskirts of a little town in excellent state of repair. All old oak timber, fire, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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A charming flat-fronted cottage, 2 bedrooms, modern kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**FULHAM SW6**  
extremely well modernized 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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near terraced house, Division 1 area, Crown Commission, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**BIRMINGHAM, PENTHUSHIRE**  
modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**WIMBORNE, LEASE 95 YEARS**  
modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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**BLACKHEATH S.E.3**  
Span House (City 25 minutes) with 4 bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), bathroom, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**KENSINGTON W8**  
Close to the High Street, purpose built flat with 2 bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Spacious 1 bedroom flat on the 1st floor of this imposing Victorian property in excellent condition. Clapham Common, Northside. Living room, kitchen, and bath. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

**CLAPHAM COMMON S.W.4**  
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## Property

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Large Country House, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Lovely period house, Bampton 12 miles, M5 8 miles. A spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Delightful Modern Residence in 10 acres of 1 acre in the village of Whitehead, 1 mile from Whitehead. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Major part Victorian house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Modern four bedroom semi-detached house with two bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Modern four bedroom semi-detached house with two bathrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Charming period cottage in conservation area. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, lounge, and a bathroom. Ideal for a single person or a couple. Price £11,950 for quick sale. KENNEDY & SONS 499 8994

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Required for expanding technical manpower company. Suitable applicants preferably with civil engineering background and residing in the London area should apply in writing under confidential cover to

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#### SCIENTIFIC OFFICER/HIGHER SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

The Potato Division of the Scottish Plant Breeding Station has a vacancy for a Scientific Officer. The person appointed will be required to assist with the development of new and improved potato varieties for use in the potato industry. The person appointed will be required to assist with the development of new and improved potato varieties for use in the potato industry.

Replies in writing please to: M. E. Taylor, GRIMLEY & SON, 2 St Philip's Place, Birmingham B3 2QQ

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### RETAIL MANAGER/MANAGER

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### Merchant Taylors' School

Northwood  
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